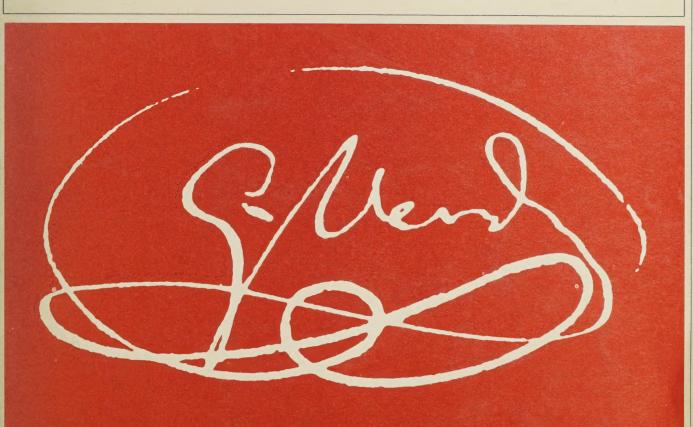
Giuseppe Verdi

Nabucodonosor

RICORDI OPERA VOCAL SCORE SERIES



VOCAL SCORE BASED ON THE CRITICAL EDITION

The University of Chicago Press

RICORDI



2 201068 21

E&L19 E&L1/RetDat Renfrewshire 782 15 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND LEISURE SERVICES **LIBRARIES** Thank you for using Library. Please return by the last date below. Renewals may be requested in person or by telephone. Bargarran 0141 812 2841 Bishopton 01505 862 136 Bridge of Weir 01505 612 220 Central 0141 887 3672 Elderslie 01505 322 055 Ferguslie Park 0141 887 6404 Gallowhill 0141 889 1195 Johnstone 01505 329 726 Erskine 0141 812 5331 Foxbar 01505 812 353 Glenburn 0141 884 2874 Library HQ 0141 840 3003 Linwood 01505 325 283 Lochwinnoch 01505 842 305 Mobiles 0141 889 1195 Raiston 0141 882 1879 Renfrew 0141 886 3433 Todholm 0141 887 3012 Spateston 01505 704 527 Toy Library 0141 884 8000

19.94

Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2022 with funding from Kahle/Austin Foundation

GIUSEPPE VERDI

NABUCODONOSOR

Dramma lirico in four parts by Temistocle Solera

First performance: Milan, Teatro alla Scala, 9 march 1842

> English version by Andrew Porter

Reduction for voice and piano based on the critical edition of the orchestral score published by The University of Chicago Press and Casa Ricordi edited by

Roger Parker

RICORDI Milano

THE WORKS OF GIUSEPPE VERDI

Editorial Board
Philip Gossett
General Editor

General Editor
Julian Budden
Martin Chusid
Francesco Degrada
Ursula Günther
Giorgio Pestelli
Pierluigi Petrobelli
Gabriele Dotto
Managing Editor



2 20106821

Casa Ricordi Editore, Milan

- © Copyright 1987 by The University of Chicago Press and CASA RICORDI BMG RICORDI S.p.A. for the critical edition of the full score.
- © Copyright 1996 by Andrew Porter for the English translation.
- © Copyright 1996 by The University of Chicago Press and CASA RICORDI BMG RICORDI S.p.A. for the piano reduction. All worldwide exploitation rights for performances reserved to CASA RICORDI BMG RICORDI S.p.A.

Printed in Italy

134570/07

Music processed by Laboratorio Copiatura Musica - Milan

ISBN 88-7592-016-8

ISMN M-41-37269-3

CONTENTS

Instruments of the Orchestra	VI			
Characters	VII			
Index of Numbers	VIII			
Abbreviations	X			
Principal Sources	XI			
Translator's Note	XII			
Preface	XIII			
Introduction				
1. The History	XV			
2. The Sources	XXVI			
3. Problems in Editing and				
Performing Nabucco	XXVIII			
Critical Notes	XXXI			
Nabucodonosor				
Sinfonia	1			
Part One	11			
Part Two	146			
Part Three	219			
Part Four	284			
Appendixes	331			

INSTRUMENTS OF THE ORCHESTRA

Piccolo

2 Flutes

2 Oboes

English Horn

2 Bassoons

4 Horns

2 Trumpets

3 Trombones

Cimbasso

2 Harps

Timpani

Cassa

Snare Drum

Triangle

Banda

Strings

CHARACTERS

NABUCODONOSOR, King of Babylon. Baritone

ISMAELE, nephew of Sedecia, King of Jerusalem. Tenor

ZACCARIA, High Priest of the Hebrews. Bass

ABIGAILLE, slave, believed Nabucodonosor's eldest daughter. Soprano

FENENA, Nabucodonosor's daughter. Mezzo-soprano

THE HIGH PRIEST of Baal. Bass

ABDALLO, elderly officer of the King of Babylon. Tenor

ANNA, Zaccaria's sister. Soprano

Babylonian Soldiers – Hebrew Soldiers – Levites
Hebrew Virgins – Babylonian Women
Magi – Lords of the Kingdom of Babylon – Populace, etc.

Chorus

Part One takes place in Jerusalem; the other Parts in Babylon

INDEX OF NUMBERS

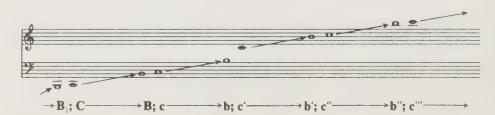
	Overture	1
	Part One	
N. 1	Introduction Gli arredi festivi – Let festive adornments be cast down (Chorus)	11
N. 2	Recitative Sperate, o figli! – Take hope, o my children [and] Cavatina Zaccaria D'Egitto là sui lidi – Once on the shores of Egypt (Ismaele, Zaccaria, Chorus)	27
N. 3	Recitative Fenena! Oh mia diletta! – Fenena! O my beloved! and Terzettino Io t'amava! – Once I loved you! (Abigaille, Fenena, Ismaele)	55
N. 4	Finale I Lo vedeste? – Did you see him? (Abigaille, Anna, Fenena, Ismaele, Nabucco, Zaccaria, Chorus)	70
	Part Two	
N. 5	Scena Ben io t'invenni – Now I possess you and Aria Abigaille Anch'io dischiuso un giorno – I too can recall a moment (Abigaille, High Priest, Chorus)	146
N. 6	Recitative vieni, o Levita! – Come forth, o Levite! and Prayer (Zaccaria) Tu sul labbro – Through Thy prophets	170
N. 7	Chorus of Levites Che si vuol? – Who is there? (Ismaele, Chorus; then Anna, Zaccaria)	175
N. 8	Finale II Ma qual sorge tumulto! – But a tumult is rising (Abigaille, Anna, Fenena, Ismaele, Abdallo, Nabucco, Zaccaria, High Priest, Chorus)	185
	Part Three	
N. 9	Introduction to Part Three È l'Assiria una regina – Great Assyria now has a ruler (Chorus)	219
N. 10	Scena Eccelsa donna – O noble Lady and Duet [Abigaille and Nabucco] Donna chi sei? – Woman, your name? (Abigaille, Abdallo, Nabucco, High Priest)	231

N. 11	Chorus Va pensiero — By the waters and Prophecy Oh chi piange? — Who is weeping? (Zaccaria, Chorus)	261				
Part Four						
N. 12	Scena Son pur queste mie membra? – Am I dreaming or waking? and Aria Nabucco Dio di Giuda! – Oh God of Judah! (Abdallo, Nabucco, Chorus)	284				
N. 13	Finale Va! la palma del martirio – Go! the martyr's palm awaits you (Abigaille, Anna, Fenena, Ismaele, Abdallo, Nabucco, Zaccaria, High Priest, Chorus)	304				
	Appendixes					
1.	Sketches and Rejected Fragments A. A draft for Zaccaria's cabaletta in N. 2 E. A draft for "Immenso Jeovha" in N. 13	331				
2.	N. 7a. A transposed Version of the Coro di Leviti (Ismaele, Chorus; then Anna, Zaccaria)	339				
3.	Autograph Choral Arrangements of "Va pensiero" and "Immenso Jeovha"	349				
4.	N. 13a. Fenena's Prayer puntata for Zecchini Oh dischiuso è il firmamento! – Now the heav'n is open before me! (Fenena)	357				
5.	N. 13b. Romanza Fenena Oh dischiuso è il firmamento! – Now the heav'n is open before me! (Fenena)	359				

ABBREVIATIONS

Abd	Abdallo	Ott	Piccolo
Abi	Abigaille	pl. no.	plate number
B.	Chorus, Basses	r	recto
Cb	Double bass(es)	Sac.	The High Priest of Baal
Cimb	Cimbasso	T.	Chorus, Tenors
C1	Clarinet(s)	Tamb	Snare Drum
Cor	Horn(s)	Timp	Timpani
Cor Ing	English Horn	Tr	Trumpet(s)
D.	Chorus, Women	Trg	Triangle
f., ff.	folio, folios	Trn	Trombone(s)
Fen	Fenena	V	Verdi
Fg	Bassoon(s)	V	verso
Fl	Flute(s)	Vc	Violoncello(s)
Ism	Ismaele	VI	Violin(s)
N., NN.	number(s) in the opera	Vle	Viola(s)
Nab	Nabucco	WGV	The Works of Giuseppe Verdi
Ob	Oboe(s)	Zac.	Zaccaria
Orch	Orchestra		

Musical notes are cited according to the following system:



Unless otherwise indicated, notes cited are sounding pitches for transposing instruments. Piccolo and double bass are cited at their written pitch.

PRINCIPAL SOURCES

Autograph Manuscripts

A Autograph Full Score: Milan, Archivio di Casa Ricordi

Aa Autograph choral arrangements of "Va pensiero" and "Immenso Jeovha": Milan,

Museo teatrale alla Scala (Collezione Casati, Ms. Mus 205)

Manuscript Copies

B-Bc Brussells, Conservatoire Royal de Musique, 1994 obl.

Manuscript Parts

I-Vfen Manuscript parts for the Romanza Fenena (N. 13b): Venice, Archivio del Teatro La

Fenice

Printed Musical Sources:

Orchestral Score

RI Ricordi (pl. no. 99590 and 128083)

Vocal Score

pvRI Ricordi, First Edition (1842)

Libretto

MI⁴² Printed libretto: Milan 1842, First Edition

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

Verdi had some hard words to say about the quality of the translations his operas suffered; but the composer who set words so vividly, and set such store on words vividly uttered, also valued performances in a language "understanded of the people." In translations of his operas that passed under his scrutiny, he countenanced occasional small adjustments of his precise note values, to obtain effective and natural declamation of the foreign language. In this English version of Nabucco I have striven to avoid changes; but, in just a few places, sense, sound, or both seemed to make them imperative. Since I did not wish to disturb or confuse the vocal lines of a critical edition designed to represent as closely as possible what the composer wrote with any further little added notes, ties, broken or extended beams (such as are common in most bilingual vocal scores), I have left it to the underlay of the English words to indicate where a few tiny adjustments – in the interest of parole more *sceniche* – are proposed.

Nabucco reached the British stage "de-Biblicized," as Nino (Her Majesty's, 1846) and as Anato (Covent Garden, 1848). Nabucco itself arrived only in 1952, played by the Welsh National Opera in a production that held the Cardiff stage, and toured to many British stages, for many seasons; Nabucco became the company's "signature piece." I recall it here because it was sung in an English translation by Norman Tucker and Tom Hammond (later published by Ricordi) a few phrases of which proved unforgettable when, in 1979, for Emerson Buckley and the Miami Opera, I first embarked on this English version. Gratefully, and with permission, I borrowed a word here and there, just a phrase or two, from the Tucker-Hammond translation. Some of them disappeared when Roger Parker and Philip Gossett suggested helpful alternatives that bound the English words ever more closely to the composer's precise musical declamation.

Andrew Porter

PREFACE

The Works of Giuseppe Verdi (WGV), a joint publication of The University of Chicago Press and Casa Ricordi, is an edition of the music of Verdi both rigorously faithful to authentic sources and suitable for performance. It is divided into six series:

I. Operas

II. Songs

III. Sacred Music

IV. Cantatas and Hymns

V. Chamber Music

VI. Juvenilia

When works exist in two distinct versions (I Lombardi / Jérusalem, Simon Boccanegra, etc.), each is published separately. Less extensive revisions are accommodated in appendixes. The main text reflects the definitive state of a work, not necessarily its final state. Should more of Verdi's musical sketches become available, they will be published in a separate series.

The music reflects a principal source, almost always the composer's autograph manuscript. Additions to it from other sources in Verdi's hand are placed in pointed brackets: < >. Other additions are differentiated typographically:

- 1. In italics: dynamics (f, p, cresc., dim.); trills (tr); missing words or syllables in the vocal lines; tempo markings (Andante); metronome markings $(\rfloor = 88)$, etc.
- 2. In broken lines: slurs or partial slurs; crescendo and decrescendo hairpins or partial hairpins.
- 3. In smaller symbols: pitches; staccati; accents; fermatas. (Symbols that replace other symbols, e.g., > for ^ or _ } \ for _, are printed full size. The replaced symbol is given in a footnote.)

Additions that extend symbols actually present in the principal source are not bracketed. Those derived from qualified secondary sources (a manuscript copy, the first edition of the vocal score, performing materials) are placed in parentheses: (). The source of such additions is specified in the Critical Notes. When an entire class of additions (e.g., metronome markings) is derived from a sec-

ondary source, this is stated in the introduction and not repeated each time in the Critical Notes. Finally, additions deemed essential by the editor but not found in the sources are placed in square brackets: []. Exceptionally, stage directions derived from the principal source for the libretto (usually the first printed edition) are given in roman type and placed in parentheses.

Vocal lines employ only treble, tenorized treble, and bass clefs. The original clefs, together with the range of each part, are specified in the list of characters.

The principal musical source is also considered to be the principal source for the literary text of an opera. A complete collation is made with principal sources for the libretto. Verdi's text is usually favored over the text of the libretto. Verdi's incomplete punctuation is supplemented from sources for the libretto. Manipulations of the punctuation are noted in the Critical Notes only when they are significant. Normally Verdi's spelling is preserved when it reflects a historically correct alternative to the libretto or to modern practice. The division of words into syllables, on the other hand, is modernized: even when the composer divides the syllables, he does so inconsistently. Singers are expected to place consonants in an appropriate fashion. Punctuation is omitted at the close of stage directions.

Solo vocal lines for the most part follow precisely the principal source. Singers will find in the critical edition all the evidence they need to develop a personal interpretation of a role. Serious inconsistencies in orchestral and choral parts or in larger ensembles, on the other hand, are not allowed to stand. In this vocal score, the piano accompaniment does not generally employ broken lines for editorially added slurs, nor does it use smaller staccati or accents. WGV seeks musically acceptable readings as close as possible to the principal source. All deviations from that source are noted: the most significant ones in footnotes, others only in the Critical Notes.

This vocal score contains a selection of the Critical Notes taken from the Critical Commentary published with the full score: particularly, those of direct importance to the singer.



INTRODUCTION*

1. The History

Before examining in detail the complex genesis and exodus of *Nabucco*, a preliminary word about the title of the opera is in order. Both Verdi's autograph score and the first printed edition of the libretto carry the title *Nabucodonosor*. Clearly, in all "formal" contexts – the title page, the spine, etc. – this critical edition must follow Verdi's and Solera's original notation. On the other hand, the shortened title very soon became standard, and was habitually used by Verdi in later life. It would in the context be pedantic to continue doggedly with the long title on every occasion, and the edition embraces *Nabucco* willingly.

Nabucco was first performed at the Teatro alla Scala, Milan, on 9 March 1842. It was Verdi's third opera and the first of many triumphant successes. Unfortunately, the period during which the opera was written is one of the least documented of his career. What is more, two basic sources, necessarily used by all who wish to discuss the genesis of the opera, date from a pediod long after the event, and are in part contradictory. The first of these comes from the chapter devoted to Verdi in Michele Lessona's Volere è potere (Florence, 1869), an account that the composer himself admitted having told to Lessona, and which he regarded as accurate.1 The second is the so-called Autobiographical Sketch, supposedly dictated by Verdi to Giulio Ricordi on 19 October 1879. This was included as an appendix to the sixth chapter of an Italian version of Arthur Pougin's "anecdotal biography" of Verdi, originally published serially in Le Ménestrel in French, then released in Italian with additional material by "Folchetto" (Jacopo Caponi).2 This account again had Verdi's explicit approval – he even read the proofs and corrected several mistakes – but, in spite of this, it has been proved startlingly inaccurate in other respects, and can hardly be taken on faith.³ In such an atmosphere, it is as well to tread carefully; to distinguish between contemporary documents and after-the-event accounts; constantly to ponder the relative merits of conflicting sources.⁴

Toward Nabucco

We must begin the story some eighteen months before the premiere of *Nabucco*, at a time shortly after the first performances of Verdi's first opera, *Oberto, conte di San Bonifacio* (La Scala, 17 November 1839). According to the Autobiographical Sketch:

Merelli then made me an offer that was munificent for those times: he offered me, that is, a contract for three operas to be written at eight-month intervals, to be performed at La Scala or at the Vienna theater, of which he was also the impresario. In return he would pay me 4000 Austrian lire per opera, sharing equally the profit from the sale of the vocal scores. I accepted the contract at once. A little later, as Merelli was leaving for Vienna, he gave the poet Rossi the assignment of supplying me with the libretto, which was Il proscritto; however, I was not completely satisfied with it, and I had not even begun to set it to music, when Merelli returned to Milan in the first months of 1840 and told me that for the autumn he absolutely needed an opera buffa, in order to balance his repertory: he would seek out a libretto for me immediately, and then later I would set Il proscritto.

This is virtually the only information we have: the first nine months of 1840 are a shadowy period in Verdi's life, one presumes taken up mostly by the composing of *Un giorno di regno*, the opera buffa mentioned above, and by a revival of *Oberto* after the new opera had failed disastrously on its first night. It was a grim period for Verdi: as well as the failure of *Un giorno di regno*, his first wife, Margherita Barezzi, died

* This introduction is an abbreviated version of the introduction to the orchestral score of *Nabucodonosor* (Chicago-Milan, 1987), Series I, vol. 3 of *The Works of Giuseppe Vordi*

1. Quotations here are from the "edizione stereotipa" (Florence, 1919), in which the relevant passage occurs on pp. 294-98. For evidence of Verdi's approval, see his letter of 7 March 1874 to Opprandino Arrivabene, in Annibale Alberti, Verdi intimo. Carteggio di Giuseppe Verdi con il conte Opprandino Arrivabene (1861-1886) (Verona, 1931), p. 174.

2. Giuseppe Verdi. Vita aneddotica (Milan, 1881), pp. 40-46. Quotations in this introduction are taken from the annotated version of the Autobiographical Sketch given in Aldo Oberdorfer, Giuseppe Verdi: Autobiografia dalle lettere, nuova edizione rivista da Marcello Conati (Milan, 1981), pp. 105-15; the English translation, with certain modifications, comes from William Weaver, Verdi. A Documentary Study (London, n.d.), pp. 11-14.

3. See Frank Walker, *The Man Verdi* (London, 1962; repr. Chicago, 1982), p. 3, for Verdi's involvement in the publication. Walker points out many of the account's inaccuracies in the first chapter of his book (pp. 1-37).

4. Much of this has already been done by past commentators. See in particular Pierluigi Petrobelli, "Nabucco," in Conferenze 1966-1967 (Associazione Amici della Scala, Milan), pp. 17-47; Adriano Cavicchi, "Verdi e Solera: Considerazioni sulla collaborazione per Nabucco," in Atti del Iocongresso internazionale di studi verdiani (Parma, 1969), pp. 44-58; Julian Budden, The Operas of Verdi, vol. 1 (London, 1973), pp. 91-96; and David R. B. Kimbell, Verdi in the Age of Italian Romanticism (Cambridge, 1981), pp. 101-9.

on 18 June 1840. But, according to the Autobiographical Sketch, the failure of *Un giorno di regno* did not damage Merelli's faith in Verdi, even when the composer threatened to renounce

operatic composition.

At this period, another composer crosses Verdi's path: the young Prussian Otto Nicolai, whose activities are crucial to the chronology of Nabucco. Merelli expected Nicolai to write a new opera for the 1840-41 Carnival season at La Scala, and we learn from Nicolai's Tagebücher (27 September 1840) that he planned to travel the next day to Milan in order to make arrangements about the libretto.5 In a later entry of the Tagebücher (4 April 1841), Nicolai tells us of the outcome of his journey: Merelli offered him Il proscritto. In some way or another, Verdi's right to the libretto seems to have been ceded: perhaps, as Verdi states in the Autobiographical Sketch, he really intended never to compose again after the failure of Un giorno di regno. Whatever the case, Nicolai did not like the new libretto and refused to set it. Merelli then made a counter proposal, that he would have Temistocle Solera write a new drama for Nicolai, entitled *Il Nabucodonosor* [sic]. This having been decided, Nicolai hastened back to Bologna, where he was staying with his new fiancée, the soprano Erminia Frezzolini.6

Matters moved along fairly swiftly. A few months later, on 26 November 1840, Nicolai was back in Milan for a few days, on his way to Genoa. Although he does not state what happened on this visit, we can guess that the new Nabucodonosor was involved, because on 28 November Merelli filed a request at the Direzione Generale della Polizia for permission to produce Nabucodonosor in the next Carnival season.8 Then Nicolai's fortunes plunged dramatically. After the first three performances of his Genoese opera, Gildippe ed Odoardo, he moved to Milan to begin work on his Milanese commission. But, the Tagebücher informs us dolefully, Nabucodonosor had to be abandoned, Nicolai becoming convinced that "a perpetual rage, shedding of blood, cursing, beating, and murdering was no subject for me." What is more, Erminia Frezzolini (who was to be the prima donna of his new opera) had for some

5. See Wilhelm Altmann, Otto Nicolais Tagebücher (Regensburg, 1937), p. 207. The first attempt to deal extensively with the Nicolai material in connection with the genesis of Nabucco is Luke Jensen's "The Early Publication History of Oberto: An Eye Toward Nabucco," in Verdi

Newsletter 13 (1985): 6-20. 6. Tagebücher, pp. 208-9. reason turned against him. He felt in the deepest of deep waters: "Ich selbst war höchst krank physisch und moralisch." Merelli was inflexible, however, and insisted that the composer fulfill his commitment to La Scala. Reluctantly, Nicolai again took up *Il proscritto*. He began composing on 4 January, less than six weeks before the opera was due on stage.9

What of Verdi during this period? After the (not very successful) revival of Oberto in October, he seems to have taken on a bachelor existence in earnest. On 9 November, he sent all his family furniture to his father-in-law Antonio Barezzi, itemizing the pieces with a doleful pedantry that, even at this distance of time, many will find touching. 10 But, soon afterwards, he was professionally engaged with a further revival of Oberto for the Carnival season at Genoa. Verdi attended, adding two new pieces for the changed conditions. The Gazzetta privilegiata di Milano, which made a daily list of notable people who were leaving and arriving in Milan, informs us that Verdi left for Genoa on 13 December 1840. He was not back until about 20 January.11

The timing is crucial because it is during this period that, according to both the Autobiographical Sketch and Lessona, he was offered the *Nabucco* libretto by Merelli. The Autobiographical Sketch describes the event as follows:

[...] one winter evening, coming out of the Galleria De Cristoforis, I run into Merelli, who was going to the theater. It was snowing in broad flakes, and taking me by arm he invites me to accompany him to the backstage of La Scala. Along the way we chat, and he tells me he is in an awkward position about the new opera he must put on: he had given the assignment to Nicolai, but the latter was not satisfied with the libretto.

"Imagine!" Merelli says, "A libretto by Solera, stupendous!!... Magnificent!!... Extraordinary!... Effective, grandiose dramatic situations: beautiful verses!... But that stubborn composer will not hear of it and declares it is an impossible libretto!... I am at a loss to find him another promptly."

"I will save you the trouble," I add. "Did you not have *Il proscritto* written for me? I have not written a note of it: I put it at your disposal."

"Oh! bravo... That is really good luck."

Saying this, we reach the theater. Merelli calls Bassi, the poet, stage-director, call boy, librarian, etc., etc., and tells him to look at once in the archive to see if he can find a copy of *Il proscritto*: the copy is there. But at the same time Merelli picks up another manuscript and, showing it to me, exclaims:

"Look, here is Solera's libretto! Such a beautiful subject, and to refuse it!... Take it... Read it."

9. Tagebücher, p. 211.

^{7.} Wilhelm Altmann, Otto Nicolai: Briefe an seinen Vater (Regensburg, 1924), p. 258.

^{8.} Biblioteca Trivulziana (Milan), Spettacoli Pubblici, Cart. 19/6.

^{10.} Carlo Gatti, Verdi, 2 vols. (Milan, 1931), 1:176.

^{11.} On that day he wrote a letter to Lorenzo Molossi from Milan; see Franco Abbiati, *Giuseppe Verdi*, 4 vols. (Milan, 1959), 1:368.

"What the devil am I to do with it?... No, no, I have no desire to read librettos."

"Oh, it won't do you any harm!... Read it and then bring it back to me." And he hands me the manuscript: it was a thick script in big letters, as was the custom then. I roll it up and, saying good evening to Merelli, I go off to my house.

Along the way I feel a kind of vague uneasiness upon me, a supreme sadness, an anguish which swells the heart!... I go home and with an almost violent gesture throw the manuscript on the table, stopping erect in front of it. Falling on the table, the sheaf opens on its own; without knowing how, my eyes stare at the page that lay before me, and this verse appears to me:

"Va, pensiero, sull'ali dorate."

I glance over the following verses and I receive a deep impression from them, especially since they are almost a paraphrase of the Bible, which I always

found pleasure in reading.

I read a passage, I read two: then, steadfast in my intention of not composing, I make an effort of will and force myself to close the script, and I go off to bed!... No good... *Nabucco* was trotting about in my head!... Sleep would not come: I get up and read the libretto, not once, but two, three times, so often that in the morning you could say that I know Solera's entire libretto by heart.

All the same I do not feel like going back on my decision, and during the day I return to the theater and give the manuscript back to Merelli.

"Beautiful, eh?..." he says to me.

"Very beautiful."

"Eh!... Then set it to music!..."

"Not on your life... I won't hear of it."

"Set it to music, set it to music!..."

And, saying this, he takes the libretto and jams it into the pocket of my overcoat, grabs me by the shoulders, and not only shoves me out of his office, but shuts the door in my face and turns the key.

What to do?

I return home with *Nabucco* in my pocket: one day a verse, one day another, one time a note, another a phrase... little by little the opera was composed.

The account is hardly to be taken at face value: all those coincidences would strain a Russian nineteenth-century three-decker novel, let alone a brief "factual" account. The miraculous appearance of "Va pensiero" merely sets a seal on the fairy-tale atmosphere. But the clear fictional element does not of course mean that everything is false. We can, though, disprove at least one point that all other commentators have taken on trust: Verdi cannot have given up Il proscritto at this meeting with Merelli. As we know from Nicolai's Tagebücher, Nicolai had been offered (and had refused) Il proscritto in late September 1840. However, it is true that the libretto of Nabucco became free because Nicolai had turned it down; it is easy to understand how Verdi would in later life remember the exchange as a straight swap.

It will be convenient immediately to juxtapose the Autobiographical Sketch with Michele Lessona's account, which is largely similar, but which differs in a few important respects:

He did nothing else from October 1840 to January 1841. One evening of the latter month and year, while snow was falling in broad flakes, coming out of the Galleria De Cristoforis he bumped into Merelli, who, taking him by the arm and dragging him toward La Scala, told him of a serious problem he (Merelli) had because Maestro Nicolai, who had to compose an opera for him, had refused to accept a libretto written by Solera and entitled *Nabucco*.

"But (replied Verdi) I can help you out this minute. Don't you remember that you left me a libretto by Rossi, *Il proscritto*? Give it to Nicolai in exchange for

Nabucco.'

Merelli thanked Verdi for the offer, and asked him to come along to the theater, to see if they could actually find there the manuscript of *Il proscritto*.

The libretto was unearthed, and Merelli slipped into a pocket of Verdi's ample coat the manuscript of *Nabucco*, saying to him:

"Look it over."

Reaching his home late, and lighting the lamp, Verdi carelessly opened the manuscript, and his eyes fell on the third-act chorus of the Hebrew slaves:

"Va', pensiero, sull'ali dorate."

He immediately heard the Biblical lines Super flumina Babylonis, threw the manuscript aside, went to bed; but he did not sleep the whole night, thinking again and again of that chorus.

The morning after he read the entire drama and, raising his mind above the verses and the libretto, he saw, as an avid reader of the Bible, the grandiosity of the concept. This notwithstanding, the same day he took the manuscript back to Merelli.

He didn't know how he could force himself once more to musical composition. He checked himself, as a lover checks himself from getting annoyed with his lady.

"Well then?" Merelli asked him.

"Perfectly fitted to music," he replied, "a magnificent plot."

"Go to it, then, and let's think about it."

Verdi hesitated and did not want to, but the good impresario suddenly got up, forcibly put the manuscript back in Verdi's pocket, put his hands on his shoulders and, pushing him out with gentle force, closed the door.

The young maestro returned home with his drama, but he threw it into a corner without a further glance, and for another five months carried on with his read-

ing of bad novels.

Then one fine day, at the end of May, he found himself with that blessed drama again in his hands: he reread the final scene, the death of Abigaille (the one which was later cut), sat down almost mechanically at the piano, that piano which had stood silent for so long, and composed that scene.

The ice was broken.

As one who emerges from a dark, suffocating prison to breathe the pure air of the fields, so Verdi once again found himself in his beloved atmosphere. In three months from that time, *Nabucco* was composed, finished, precisely as it today.

The account is, of course, largely the same, and we quote it in full only to demonstrate the creative "retouching" that went on from one version to the other. On the positive side, the specific time given in Lessona's account corresponds to existing information: January is precisely when we would expect the conversation between Merelli and Verdi to take place; we know that Nicolai did not reject the Nabucco libretto until the beginning of that month. Presumably the meeting occurred sometime after Verdi's return from Genoa around 20 January. But there is one serious contradiction: in the Autobiographical Sketch Verdi begins to compose immediately after the January meeting, albeit at a slow rate; in Lessona he lets the libretto lie fallow for five months, not beginning its composition until the end of May. Which of these are we to believe?

Unfortunately there can be no clear answer. Only three Verdi letters seem to survive from the period after his return from Genoa. The first is dated 20 January, and concerns a possible revival of Oberto in Parma. 12 The other two, both addressed to Giuseppe Demaldè in Busseto, furnish the only evidence of Verdi's activities during this period. The first is written from Milan on 28 March 1841;13 the second, also from Milan, is dated 4 April 1841.14 Neither gives the impression of a composer engaged in work in progress, there is no mention of "my new opera" or any such phrase, extremely common in other periods of the correspondence. For this, if for no other reason, we might be inclined to follow Lessona rather than the Autobiographical Sketch, and suggest that Verdi did not begin composition until late May.15 There is also the fact that, once a libretto was finished (which Nabucco had been for some time), Verdi rarely spent longer than three or four months in composing the score. If he had started in January (albeit slowly), he would surely have been agitating for a performance rather earlier than was in fact the case. But, to repeat, there is no hard evidence, and the above can only be conjecture.

The Play, the Ballet, the Libretto

Temistocle Solera's sources for *Nabucco* are varied, and have in the past given some cause for confusion. Originally, of course, the story

12. See Note 11.

comes from the Bible. In 2 Kings 23-25, 2 Chronicles 36, Daniel 1-4, in Psalms, and, most extensively, in Jeremiah, we read much of the Kingdom of Judah and its invasion by the Babylonian Nebuchadnezzar - or, more properly, according to modern scholars, Nebuchadrezzar. The events chronicled in *Nabucco* have as their background Nebuchadrezzar's second invasion in 587-586 BC, during which he sacked the temple at Jerusalem, and took most of the vanguished back to Babylon, whence they were released only after nearly fifty years. But, at least in terms of "plot," that is roughly the extent of the relationship: there is no biblical "Ismaele, nipote di Sedecia re di Gerusalemme," no Abigaille or Fenena, and though Zaccaria has strong overtones of Jeremiah, the latter never went to Babylon. Certainly, though, both Solera and Verdi were anxious to stress their biblical source, even to the extent of supplying apposite quotations from the Diodati translation of Jeremiah to head the various parts of the libretto.16 However, these quotations seem to mark the extent of the biblical relationship: it is difficult to find further parallels between Solera's language and that of the Diodati Bible.

A much more direct source is found in *Nabuchodonosor*, a four-act French play by Auguste Anicet-Bourgeois and Francis Cornu, first performed at Paris's Théâtre de l'Ambigu-Comique on 17 October 1836.¹⁷ Though much of the first half of the play is very different from Solera (notably in the changed character of Abigail/Abigaille), all the major characters – Nabuchodonosor, Ismaël, Zacharie, Le Grand-Prêtre de Bel, Abigail, and Phénenna – are there, as are many of the key dramatic moments – the betrayal and subsequent anathematizing of Ismaël, the arrival of Nabuchodonosor in the temple, his blasphemy, punishment by thunderbolt, madness, and recovery after conversion.

In less than two years after its Parisian premiere, Nabuchodonosor was available in Italian

^{13.} Published in the Gazzetta di Parma on 3 February 1901.

^{14.} Alessandro Luzio, Carteggi verdiani, 4 vols. (Rome, 1935-47), 4:77-78.

^{15.} Of the commentators mentioned in Note 4, Cavicchi, Budden, and Kimbell take the opposite view, siding with the Autobiographical Sketch; Petrobelli, on the other hand, supports Lessona.

^{16.} These quotes have caused some confusion to commentators. They are often described as mere paraphrases of the Bible, but are in fact accurate for the most part; the difficulties have been caused by uncertainty over the translation of the Bible used, and by the fact that Solera appended faulty references to three of his four citations. The correct references (in all cases to the Giovanni Diodati translation) are as follows: Part I Jeremiah XXXIV:2 (not Solera's XXXII); Part II Jeremiah XXX:23; Part III Jeremiah L:39 (not Solera's LI); Part IV Jeremiah L:2 (not Solera's XLVIII).

^{17.} A copy of this play can be found in Milan's Museo teatrale alla Scala, as part of Magasin Théatral, Choix de Pièces Nouvelles, vol. 14 (Paris, 1836). Three Italian plays with the same or similar titles, by Pietro Giovannini, Giovanni Battista Niccolini, and Francesco Ringhieri, prove to have no connection to Solera's plot.

translation. An advertisement in the *Gazzetta* privilegiata di Milano (24 September 1838) described it thus:

NABUCODONOSOR. Dramma in quattro atti dei signori A. Bourgeois e F. Cornu, versione italiana di C. G. milanese, membro dell'Ateneo di Bergamo. Prezzo austr. lir. 1.30 – Si vende in Milano nella Tipografia Tamburini-Valdoni in S. Raffaele.

The play may even have had a performance in Milan: on 9 August 1839, the *Gazzetta privilegiata di Milano* announced:

CIRCO OLIMPICO alla Commenda, in P. Romana. Dalla Comp. Favre si recita Nabucco Re di Babilonia.

although this may conceivably have been one of the other *Nabuccos* mentioned in Note 17. Unfortunately, a copy of the Italian version by the Milanese "C. G." has not come to light, but an examination of the original French text shows that varous passages were lifted wholesale into the libretto, proving that Solera used the play as a direct source.

The second direct source for Solera's libretto is to be found in a *ballo storico* by Antonio Cortesi entitled *Nabuccodonosor* [sic] given at La Scala on 27 October 1838, just before Verdi moved finally to Milan. The "Avvertimento" to the ballet makes clear its debt to the Italian translation of *Nabuchodonosor*, and also mentions an unaccountable shift in venue:

In this fruit of my long labor, based on a French Drama that has made a sensation in Paris, and that has recently been tastefully translated by signor G., I have moved the setting from Babylon to Jerusalem [...]

Most of the ballet's (necessary) reductions in the scope of the French play's plot, in particular the simplifying of Abigaille's role, the reduction of Ismaele's, and the elimination of most of the secondary characters, are taken over by Solera, making it clear that, in general structure, the ballet was a central source.

Although the evidence is shadowy, there may have been an even more direct source for Solera's libretto. When *Nabucco* was performed in Paris, at the Théâtre Italien, in the autumn of 1845, there were legal problems. As Emanuele Muzio, Verdi's amanuensis and student, wrote to Antonio Barezzi from Milan on 13 October 1845:

18. A copy of the "libretto" to this ballet is housed in Milan's Museo teatrale alla Scala. The title page reads: "NABUCCODONOSOR, Ballo Storico in 5 parti composto e diretto da Antonio Cortesi da rappresentarsi nell'I. R. Teatro alla Scala l'autunno del 1838. Milano, Gaspare Truffi, MDCCCXXXVIII."

Vatel, the impresario of the Italian Theater in Paris, had to pay a thousand francs to someone who made a libretto of *Nabucco*, and who claims Solera derived his libretto from it; otherwise, the opera could not have been performed.

The comparative lack of documentation concerning Verdi's collaboration with Solera on Nabucco may be due to a number of elements: Solera's notoriously disordered life, which made it unlikely he would preserve correspondence; the probability that both men were in the same city during the time of composition, and so had no need of written exchanges; and, perhaps most important, Solera's experience in matters musical and theatrical, his ability to produce a functional libretto without constant guidance. It is worth pointing out, though, that Verdi did not scruple to alter Solera's text (and especially its prosodic implications of musical form) when he saw fit.

The Composition of Nabucco

Despite these limitations in the documentary evidence about the composer's collaboration with Solera on *Nabucco*, we can gain important knowledge about Verdi's work on the opera from secondary sources and from study of the autograph score.¹⁹ This includes information about the presence in *Nabucco* of music written earlier or appearing contemporaneously in other works; the order of composition of the opera; alterations made by Verdi in the so-called "skeleton-score" layer;²⁰ and alterations made after the opera was fully orchestrated, perhaps during the final rehearsal period. There is space to mention here just two points of particular interest.

First, Verdi extensively modified the ensemble "Immenso Jeovha" in the Finale Ultimo (N. 13).²¹ He was perhaps motivated to do so by a revision of Solera's text. Here are the two versions:

19. The manuscript, housed in the archives of Casa Ricordi of Milan, is described briefly in section 2 of this introduction.

20. This is the phase in which Verdi wrote the vocal parts with their text, important instrumental solos, and a complete (if sometimes sketchy) instrumental bass into the autograph score. David Lawton has suggested that this phase of a Verdi autograph might be called the "skeleton score." See his "Observations on the Autograph of Macbeth I," in David Rosen and Andrew Porter, eds., Verdi's Macbeth: A Sourcebook (New York, 1984), pp. 210-26.

21. Although the revision is being discussed under skeleton-score alterations, we have no evidence as to whether changes in this unaccompanied ensemble were made before or after the remainder of the score was orchestrated. The original version of "Immenso Jeovha" is printed in Appendix 1E. See the relative Critical Notes, as well as the Notes to N. 13 pertaining to 123-149, particularly Note 136-143.

Original
Immenso Jeovha,
Chi non ti sente?
Tua man possente
Or si mostrò.
Spesso al tuo popolo
Donasti il pianto;
Ma i ceppi hai franto
Se in te fidò.

Revised
Immenso Jeovha,
Chi non ti sente?
Chi non è polvere
Innanzi a te?
Tu spandi un'iride?..
Tutto è ridente.
Tu vibri il fulmine?..
L'uom più non è.

It is tempting to see the hand of the censor in the replacement of the second stanza, with its image of God breaking the chains of a captive people, but there is no hard evidence to support such a hypothesis. On the other hand, Verdi and Solera may well have exercised self-censorship. Certainly the original text is crossed out in the autograph with a vehemence that is suggestive. Some of the changes are in the hand of a copyist. In his revision, however, Verdi also took the opportunity to make musical changes for purely aesthetic reasons. For example, he altered the ensemble responses to Zaccaria's solo from "Immenso" to "Jeovha" at 131-132 and 144-145

The final version is not wholly satisfactory. In particular, the setting of the verses "Tu spandi un'iride?../Tutto è ridente" at 136-139 is inappropriate, reflecting unmistakably the original text: "Spesso al tuo popolo/Donasti il pianto." For reasons discussed in Critical Note 136-143 to N. 13, however, conflation of the two versions is unacceptable. Performers who believe that Verdi made these changes primarily to avoid difficulties with the censors might consider integrating the original version (printed in Appendix 1E) into modern productions, but this edition, following the entire performance history of *Nabucco*, includes Verdi's revised version in the main body of the opera.

The second alteration involves the Coro di Leviti (N. 7). Verdi originally wrote the skeleton score of the Coro di Leviti in the key of E minor/major. Presumably the vocal parts were copied out in this form and rehearsals were begun. Only after he had orchestrated 1-38 did Vedi decide to transpose the composition down to E b minor/major. To facilitate his work, the composer had a copyist do the mechanical job of writing out in the new key all the music already prepared. Verdi then orchestrated the remainder of the Coro di Leviti in the lower key, and rewrote the transitional measures to the following Finale (109-117). Finally, the copyist completed the E minor/major manuscript by transposing the remaining sections up to the original key, while Verdi himself wrote out fully the transitional measures. The result is that the Coro di Leviti exists in two complete versions: E minor/major and Eb minor/major.

One must assume that Verdi was motivated by practical considerations in adopting this unusual procedure. Although Ismaele's range in the E minor/major version does not exceed a', a note he is called on to sing elsewhere in the opera (indeed, he ascends to bb' in "Immenso Jeovha"), his tessitura in the Coro di Leviti lies rather high. The transposition downward, in short, may have been Verdi's response to unsatisfactory results obtained during rehearsals of the piece in the original key. Surely it is significant, however, that Verdi left the original version of the piece in the main body of the autograph, consigning the transposed version to an appendix, and that he had the Coro di Leviti printed in its original key in the first vocal score (pvRI). Every subsequent source, printed or manuscript, presents the piece in E minor/major. This edition therefore adopts the original tonality, placing the revised version in Appendix 2.

The Staging of the Opera

There is an almost complete lack of contemporary evidence covering the period during which *Nabucco* was staged. We must again turn to the Autobiographical Sketch:

It was the autumn of 1841 and, recalling Merelli's promise, I went to him, announcing that *Nabucco* was written, and could therefore be staged during the next Carnival-Lent season.

Merelli declared himself ready to keep the promise, but at the same time pointed out that it was impossible to give the opera in the coming season, because three new operas by renowned composers were already set; to give a fourth opera by a quasi-newcomer was dangerous for all concerned, but especially for me. It was therefore wise to wait for spring, a period for which he had no commitments, assuring me that he would engage good artists. But I refused: either during Carnival or not at all... and I had my good reasons, since it would not be possible to find two other artists more suited to my work than Strepponi and Ronconi, who I knew were engaged, and on whom I was therefore counting greatly.

Merelli, though he was ready to satisfy me, was not entirely wrong as an impresario: four new operas in a single season was a great risk!... But I had good artistic arguments on my side. In short, amid yeses and nos, embarrassments, half-promises, the program of La Scala was posted... but *Nabucco* was not announced.

I was young , I had hot blood!... I wrote a furious letter to Merelli, in which I gave free rein to all my bitterness – I confess that as soon as it was sent I felt a kind of remorse!... and I feared that everything would be ruined.

Merelli sent for me and, seeing me, exclaimed

"Is this the way to write to a friend?... Come now, you are right: we will give this *Nabucco*. However, you must consider that I will have very heavy expenses for the other new operas; I cannot have costumes or sets specially made for *Nabucco*!... and I'll

have to patch up as best I can the most suitable material I find in the storeroom."

I agreed to everything, as what was more important to me was that the opera be given. A new placard came out on which finally I read: NABUCCO!... [...]

Finally, at the end of February 1842, the rehearsals began; and in twelve days from the first piano rehearsal we reached the first performance, on 9 March, having as interpreters Signora Strepponi and Signora Bellinzaghi, and Signori Ronconi, Miraglia and Dérivis.

Lessona's account of the same period is much shorter, but essentially goes over the same ground. He does, however, take time to deny that the staging of *Nabucco* had anything to do with the intercession of "certain people in authority who had advocated [Verdi's] cause."²²

Neither Lessona nor the Autobiographical Sketch gives any indication of when these events took place. But a further document, unfortunately also of somewhat dubious authenticity, offers more precise information. This is apparently a quotation from a letter by Giovannino Barezzi to his father (and Verdi's father-in-law) Antonio Barezzi, first published in Verdi: Rivista per l'anno giubilare (Bologna, 1926). The article in which the quotation appears, "Modeste origini," is anonymous, and Frank Walker, who describes the source in some detail in his biography,²³ suggests that the text may even have been tampered with. We know from a subsequent exhibition catalogue that the letter was dated 26 December 1841 and was, in 1941, in the possession of Luigi Agostino Garibaldi. It has not so far been made available to the public. The author of "Modeste origini" tells us how the Carnival season placard appeared without Nabucco, and that Verdi returned to his rooms in a temper and discussed the matter with friends. Then, apparently, a quotation from the letter begins:

[...] and then he decides to write to Merelli in rather harsh terms. Merelli resents that and shows the letter to Pasetti and says: "See how Verdi has misunderstood this! That is not my intention, but I did it so that I should gain credit with the subscribers when, toward the end of the Carnival season, I put out a new placard, with the announcement of his opera. Tell Verdi, however, to show Strepponi her part, and if she wants to sing it I'll gladly put it on."

Pasetti sends for Verdi and they go to see Strepponi. They explain the situation and she very willingly agrees to sing in the opera and adds: "Come here tomorrow at half past one and I'll look through my part."

The next day -23 [December] 1841, that is - Verdi and Pasetti go to see Strepponi at the agreed time; she tries over her part at the pianoforte with Verdi and

then says to him: "I like this music very much, and I want to sing it when I make my debut," and at once adds: "Let's go and see Ronconi." They get in Pasetti's cab, which had been waiting at the door, and go to Ronconi. Strepponi points out to him the beauties of the opera and Verdi tells him the plot. Ronconi, after hearing all about it, says: "Very well, this evening I'll speak to the impresario, and tell him that I don't want to sing in Nini's opera, but that I want to sing in yours."

Yet again, the lack of agreement between the sources casts doubt on all of them. In the Autobiographical Sketch there is no mention of the intercession of Giuseppina Strepponi and Giorgio Ronconi, merely a giving way by Merelli; a curious omission, considering that Verdi's future relationship with Strepponi would have made it doubly likely that such an intercession be recalled in future years. On the other hand, the "quotation" from Giovannino Barezzi's letter also has its curious aspects, not least that Merelli's "excuse" to Verdi lacks any vestige of logic: he protests that he intended to perform the opera all along, but then suggests that he will perform it only if the singers agree. It very much seems as though we have, if not fiction, at least a dangerous conflation of events dressed up as straightforward narrative. Furthermore, Verdi was at pains elsewhere to stress the point that he alone was responsible for the fact that Nabucco was eventually staged.

Again, contemporary documents cannot help us solve the problem. We know virtually nothing of Verdi's life during this period. The only letter that survives from these months is to the bass Ignazio Marini, enclosing a replacement aria for the *Oberto* revival about to be staged in Barcelona.²⁴ As in so many other cases, we simply have to take the accounts left to us on trust.

Naturally enough, the La Scala season in which Nabucco appeared is thoroughly documented in contemporary theatrical journals. The season began with the world premiere of Donizetti's Maria Padilla (26 December 1841), featuring Sofia Löwe in the title role; then followed the Milan premiere of Pacini's Saffo (6 January 1842). Both operas obtained a reasonable success. A revival of Bellini's La straniera (22 January) fared less well and, some time after that, Löwe left the cast to take up an engagement in London. Nini's Odalisa (the third of Merelli's "new" operas for the season) failed disastrously on 19 February. Giuseppina Strepponi arrived in Milan on 16 February, and on 22 February sang in a further Donizetti opera,

^{22.} Lessona, p.298.

^{23.} Walker, pp. 166-67.

^{24.} For the text of this letter, see the unpaginated Afterword (following p. LXIV) to Giuseppe Verdi, *Ernani* (Chicago-Milan, 1985), edited by Claudio Gallico.

Belisario. As Frank Walker tells us in detail, Strepponi was going through a severe professional and personal crisis. We even have evidence that Verdi made a last-minute attempt to exclude her from the cast of Nabucco: on 4 March, Donizetti (who was in Milan at the time) enclosed the following message for a Roman impresario in a letter to his brother-in-law:

Tell him that this singer generated such enthusiasm here in *Belisario* that she was the only one who never received any applause, that her Verdi did not want her in his own opera and that the management imposed her on him.²⁵

Numerous theatrical reports echo Donizetti's account of Strepponi's miserable showing in *Belisario*. Rehearsals for *Nabucco*, which must have begun soon after this debacle, cannot have been easy. Verdi's prima donna underwent a medical examination on 3 March. The doctors' report concluded as follows:

The said Signora Strepponi has a very delicate constitution, and her loss of weight has become very considerable. Furthermore she is tormented by frequent coughing, with an unpleasant feeling of irritation all along the trachea and the larynx, which, she says, often becomes a burning sensation, especially after the effort of singing. Her pulse is weak and rapid; in brief, she shows symptoms of light feverish reaction, with loss of appetite and appreciable prostration. In view of all that was established the undersigned doctors unanimously declared Signora Strepponi to be affected with such laryngo-tracheal inflammation as will lead to consumption unless she immediately ceases to exercise her profession and submits herself at once to appropriate treatment and an uninterruptedly tranquil way of life.26

Six days later, she created the role of Abigaille.

The First Performances: the Excision of Abigaille's Final Scene

The final paragraphs of the Autographical Sketch leave us with an impression of *Nabucco*'s first performance:

The costumes, patched togethr in haste, prove splendid!...

Old sets, retouched by the painter Perroni, have an extraordinary effect: the first scene of the temple in particular produces such a great effect that the audience applause lasts for a good ten minutes!...

At the dress rehearsal we didn't even know how and when to have the banda appear on the stage: Maestro Tutsch was at a loss: I indicate a bar to him: and at the first performance the banda enters on stage so in time on the crescendo, that the audience bursts into applause!...

26. Walker, p. 94.

Material of this kind hardly consitutes "evidence": the whole passage giving an impression of fictional closure rather than objective reporting. Neither "Maestro Tutsch" nor "the painter Perroni" appears on the (extensive) personnel list in the first printed libretto.²⁷ To find out the true story of the early *Nabucco* performances, we are on safer ground studying the contemporary reviews.

Safer, that is, if we go to the sources first hand, and do not rely on the reports given by various biographers. As Frank Walker pointed out, Gino Monaldi's account of Giuseppina Strepponi's "success" as Abigaille is demonstrated by quoting reviews that actually date from six years earlier in her career. Equally outrageous is Franco Abbiati's statement that "Va pensiero" was encored on the first night, something he can demonstrate only by conflating two reviews, and by making an obvious reference to "Immenso Jeovha" seem to apply to the earlier chorus. 29

In fact the contemporary reviews, if at different lengths and with different emphases, speak more or less with one voice:³⁰ Ronconi was excellent; Dérivis was impressive though sometimes out of tune; Strepponi was in grave vocal difficulties and could barely sing a note;³¹ the minor parts were well taken. As mentioned above, "Immenso Jeovha" was such a success that it was encored on the first evening.

One point worth further discussion was brought up by Alberto Mazzucato in his 20 March review in the *Gazzetta musicale di Milano*, Ricordi's recently begun house journal:

The first two performances closed with the death agony of Abigaille which, although treated with love, did not obtain an effect, as it was a useless prolongation of the action; for this reason the score now ends with the ensemble piece ["Immenso Jeovha"], nor could Verdi more solemnly conclude his fine composition.

It is of course likely that the cut was also influenced by Strepponi's wretched vocal condition. On the other hand, when the opera was

^{25.} Guido Zavadini, Donizetti: Vita, musiche, epistolario (Bergamo, 1948), p. 580.

^{27.} See the description of this libretto in the Critical Commentary to the full score, pp. 12-13.

Walker, p. 92.
 Abbiati, 1:415.

^{30.} The following reviews were consulted: Gazzetta privilegiata di Milano (10 March) by Angelo Lambertini; Gazzetta musicale di Milano (13 March and 20 March) by A[lberto] M[azzucato]; Glissons n'appuyons pas (c. 10 March, reprinted in Teatri, arti e letteratura on 24 March) by [Gian Jacopo] Pezzi; La moda (10 March) by "Y"; and Il bazar (12 March), anonymous. Walker, p. 92, quotes a review by G. Romani from Il figaro.

^{31.} The only dissenting voice about Strepponi was *Il bazar*, which declared her "equal to her distinguished reputation"; but even this critic mentioned that a brief rest would do her good.

revived under Verdi's direction in the Autumn 1842 season at La Scala, with a soprano (Teresa De Giuli Borsi) in fine vocal health, Abigaille's death scene was not restored, nor was it performed in the majority of nineteenth-century revivals.³² There seems little doubt that, whatever Verdi's innermost feelings on the matter, he did not strenuously object to the cutting of the final scene.

Nabucco in Milan, Autumn 1842: Fenena's Preghiera "Puntata per la Zecchini"

Verdi made an extensive alteration for the Autumn 1842 revival at La Scala, one that remains with the autograph: he revised the vocal line of Fenena's Preghiera in N. 13. The revised version is published in this edition as Appendix 4 (N. 13a). The only documentation we have concerning this change, presumably done at the request of the new Fenena, Amalia Zecchini, are two folios in the autograph (ff. 145-146) entitled "Preghiera Fenena puntata per la Zecchini alla Scala Aut. 1842." The music is undoubtedly in Verdi's hand.

The revision of the vocal line raises the tessitura of the part, since Amalia Zecchini was a soprano, while the original Fenena, Giovannina Bellinzaghi, was a mezzo-soprano. But even more interesting is the extent to which Verdi's puntature constitute an elaborate ornamented version of the original melody, presumably to suit not merely the tessitura of the new singer but also her vocal style. Throughout the decade of the 1840s, Verdi's letters refer constantly to roles in his operas being modified for various singers; sometimes he even gave other composers instructions to prepare puntature where necessary.33 If Verdi's own puntature for Fenena are any indication of what he was authorizing. modern performance practice for Verdi's early operas may require considerable rethinking.

Nabucco in Venice, Carnival 1842-43: Fenena's "Romanza"

For a revival of *Nabucco* at Venice's Teatro La Fenice on 26 December 1842, Verdi composed a "Romanza" intended to replace Fenena's "Preghiera." The new Romanza is printed in this edition as Appendix 5 (N. 13b).

32. In a study of some eighty librettos for nineteenth-century revivals of *Nabucco*, I have managed to find only six in which the death scene was performed. All of them are early: Brescia 1843, Lisbon 1843, Padua 1843, Trieste 1843, Bergamo 1843-44, and Mantua 1843-44. Interestingly enough, the Abigaille at Brescia was Teresa De Giuli Borsi.

33. Verdi asked Donizetti to prepare such *puntature* for a performance of *Ernani* in Vienna. See Verdi, *Ernani*, ed. C. Gallico, p. XXI.

The management of La Fenice showed themselves interested in staging a revival of Nabucco very soon after its first series of performances at La Scala, but negotiations were complicated by the lengthy litigation between Ricordi and Lucca over rights to the score.34 The dispute was at least temporarily patched up in the autumn of 1842, and by October Nabucco was definitely scheduled to open the Carnival season at La Fenice. On 1 December Ricordi sent to Venice the full score and parts. But, very soon after these had arrived, the management at La Fenice had to approach Verdi with some urgency. The problem arose from an embarras de richesse in the soprano department: the theater had contracted two prima donna sopranos for the season, Sofia Löwe and Almerinda Granchi. Löwe was to take the part of Abigaille: Granchi felt the existing Fenena was rather beneath her station, and had apparently already written to the composer asking for a revision to her Act IV Preghiera.

The president of La Fenice, Count Alvise Francesco Mocenigo wrote directly to Verdi to second her request:

To Maestro Verdi

Venice, 8/12/42

Signora Granchi, to whom the *presidenza* has assigned the role of Fenena in your distinguished work, Sig. Maestro, feels she is sacrificed in the part; she informs me that she has applied to you in order to have some piece of greater importance substituted for the preghiera in Act IV. Permit me, esteemed Sig. Maestro, to add my pleas to those of Granchi.

M[ocenigo]

It was a difficult moment for Verdi, who was heavily involved with his next opera for La Scala, *I Lombardi alla prima crociata*. But he responded with the necessary speed:

Milan, 19 Dec. 1842

Most Illustrious Marchese

Here is the adagio for Signora Granchi. If it is too high, transpose it down a tone. Would your Lordship be so good as to see that this score and the parts extracted from it are returned to me (as soon as they have served their purpose), as I should like the opera to remain as written – I also beg you to inform the Maestro who will rehearse *Nabucco* that the tempi should not be slow. They should all move along, especially the Canon in the Finale secondo ["S'appressan gl'istanti"] – with all respect I am

Your Humble Servant G. Verdi

34. The complete surviving correspondence concerning the premiere of *Nabucco* at La Fenice is transcribed and discussed in Marcello Conati, *La bottega della musica: Verdi e La Fenice* (Milan, 1983), pp. 19-31.

Mocenigo was quick to reply:

Sig. Maestro Verdi

In thanking you for the trouble you have taken in complying with the request of the Prima Donna, Signora Granchi, the undersigned assures you, Sig. Maestro, that the score and the parts extracted from it will be returned to you after we have made appropriate use of them.

As for your observations, distinguished signor Maestro, concerning the staging of Nabucco, the undersigned can assure you that he immediately passed on your appreciated letter to the Maestro al Cembalo in the service of this Gran Teatro, and furthermore that the rehearsals demonstrate that your intentions

are being realized.

22/12[1]842

Mocenigo presumably returned the score to Verdi after the Venetian performance, but, fortunately for us, he retained at least a copy of the parts. Thus, the critical edition has been able to reconstruct the "Romanza Fenena" from parts still preserved in the archives of the Teatro La Fenice. These parts, while not complete (of the lower brass, for example, only the Trombone III part survives), seem to have been prepared with reasonable care.

The Later Performance History; Brussels 1848

Nabucco enjoyed a widespread success in the years immediately after its premiere, and was still performed fairly regularly in the later decades of the nineteenth century.35 Apart from the performances in autumn 1842 at La Scala (discussed earlier in this introduction), we know that Verdi attended three other early revivals, those at Vienna (Kärntnertortheater, 4 April 1843), Parma (Teatro Ducale, 17 April 1843), and Verona (Teatro Filarmonico, 10 January 1844). In the case of the Parma and Verona performances, it was surely not accidental that Giuseppina Strepponi figured in the cast list.³⁶ Verdi's participation in these two productions was limited: he did not arrive in Parma until 14 April 1843, hardly time enough to participate

actively in preparations; and he followed a similar schedule during the Verona performances, which he ostensibly attended in order to hear a tenor.³⁷ There is no evidence that he changed the score in any way, although it is significant that Abigaille's death scene was again omitted.

Verdi's participation in the Viennese revival, the first performance of a Verdi opera in Vienna, was more extensive.38 He told Emilia Morosini immediately after his return to Italy that "I attended and directed with my baton two performances of Nabucco."39 Gaetano Donizetti, who was musical director of the Viennese theaters at that time, took an active role in preparing matters until Verdi himself arrived.40 The excellent singers included Ronconi and Dérivis from the original cast and De Giuli from the autumn revival at La Scala. There is no evidence, however, that Verdi altered the opera further. At least one newspaper, in fact, lamented the omission of Abigaille's death scene.

Verdi was involved in one further revival of Nabucco, at the Théâtre-Royal of Brussels on 29 November 1848, where the opera was given in a new French translation by Ferdinand Grayrand and Jules Guillaume. Although he did not attend the performances, it seems likely that he

composed new music for the occasion.

Nabucco had proven extremely successful in its revival at the Théâtre Italien of Paris in 1845. When Verdi visited Brussels in June 1847, on the way to London, he may already have made contact with Gravrand or others involved in theatrical life there. In any case, by the fall of 1848 Gravrand had established a working relationship with Verdi and his French publishers, the Escudiers, and Verdi had agreed to participate in a projected French translation and adaptation of Nabucco for Brussels. We know for certain that the composer provided a ballet to insert immediately after the chorus opening Part III of the opera.

38. Recall that the impresario at La Scala, Merelli, was also in charge of the Viennese Kärntnertortheater. Information about the Viennese performances is culled from Ursula Dauth, Verdis Opern im Spiegel der Wiener Presse von 1843 bis 1859 (Munich-Salzburg, 1981), pp. 65-77

39. Dauth, p. 67. He goes on to say: "[The opera] had a great success, more than I had hoped, after having seen the intrigues of a certain person." The reference is surely to Otto Nicolai.

40. The date of his arrival is unknown. According to Gatti, 1:219, Verdi had left Milan on approximately 20 March.

^{35.} For a detailed list, with casts, of many of the performances during the opera's first two years, see "The Exodus of Nabucco," in Roger Parker. Studies in Early Verdi: New Information and Perspectives on the Milanese Musical Milieu and the Operas from Oberto to Ernani (New York, 1989), pp. 111-41. Many microfilm copies of librettos for nineteenth-century revivals are held by the American Institute for Verdi Studies Archive at New York University: for a list, see M. Chusid, L. Jensen, and D. Day, "The Verdi Archive at New York University," Verdi Newsletter 9/10 (1981-82): 32-

^{36.} For further details of all three performances, see Walker, pp. 172-75.

^{37.} The Parma date of arrival is announced in a letter written from Udine on 9 April 1843 to Alvise Mocenigo in Venice (see Conati, p. 39); documentation concerning his short visit to Verona is given in the introduction to Verdi, Ernani, p. XVIII.

Several letters and documents provide information about his participation.⁴¹ The first is an undated note from Verdi to one of the Escudiers, in which the composer expresses his hope that Gravrand will remain in Paris long enough for Verdi to deliver to him personally the ballet music he is preparing for *Nabucco*. The letter must have been written in September or early October, since Verdi's letter to Gravrand in Brussels on 7 October 1848 accompanied his shipment of the music. The following excerpt from the letter (which was written in French) is found in the Sotheby's catalogue:

Here are the *aires des ballets*. Please be so kind as to return my original to me as quickly as possible. I would also be very pleased to receive information about the first performance of *Nabucco*...

The contract between Verdi and the Brussels translators is actually dated two days later, 9 October.

From Paris Verdi wrote again to Gravrand in Brussels on 10 November. His letter was described in the following terms in the Macnutt *Quarto*:

An important letter, apparently unpublished, relating to the first performance of *Nabucco* in Brussels. in a translation by the addressee and J. Guillaume. First, Verdi clears up a misunderstanding between them: "I have nothing to forgive you, because you are guilty of nothing!..." He then says that, much though he would like to be present at the performance (given on 29 November), "I am chained to my writing-table and my pianoforte, without a chance of getting away." (He was composing La battaglia di Legnano for Rome.) The second part of the letter is concerned with the Nabucco ballet music. He is grateful to the conductor for not wanting to alter the order of the ballets but nonetheless he is prepared to make concessions (of which he then gives details) to the balletmaster. He ends by sending greetings to Royer and Vaez [the Parisian translators responsible for the text of Jérusalem].

41. The following letters and documents in Verdi's hand or with Verdi's signature are relevant:

An undated letter from Verdi to one of the Escudiers in the collection of Mr. George Martin.

7 October 1848: a letter from Verdi to Gravrand, #354 in the Sotheby's auction sale of 15 March 1971.

9 October: the contract between Verdi, Gravrand, and

Guillaume, #355 in the Sotheby's sale.

10 November: a letter from Verdi to Gravrand, described in *Quarto* 8 of the antiquarian dealer Mr. Richard Macnutt in 1978, where it was listed as item 84: currently in the collection of Mr. Martin. In the Sotheby's sale, this letter (#356) is dated erroneously 20 November.

16 December: a letter from Verdi to Gravrand, #357 in

the Sotheby's sale.

I wish to thank Mr. Martin for sharing information about Verdi's undated letter to Escudier and his letter to Gravrand dated 10 November 1848, in advance of their complete publication in his *Aspects of Verdi* (New York, 1988). I am particularly grateful to Mr. Macnutt for his assistance.

These concessions involved a possible modification in the order of the dances in the ballet. In this letter, Verdi also asked Gravrand to return the ballet to him after the performances.

Gravrand appears to have followed Verdi's instructions precisely, as we learn from Verdi's letter to him of 16 December, of which a translated excerpt appears in the Sotheby's catalogue:

[...] I have received the ballet music; and thank you for having given me news of *Nabucco* – As for the matter of *Attila*, I believe that the Escudiers have not written. I do not know what it will be possible to decide in this, but I know that the Escudiers are the proprietors of this score in France & without them nothing can be undertaken... *Nabucco* goes on? and goes well?...

Although a manuscript of Nabucco in the Brussels Conservatory (B-Bc) refers to the inserted ballet after the Introduzione Parte Terza, and similar references to a "Danse" or "Divertissement" are found in the orchestral parts prepared for this performance (preserved at the Archive de la Ville of Brussels), there is no trace of the music. Verdi's comments about allowing a modification in the order of the dances suggests that several dances were involved. The only extended ballet music Verdi had written earlier was for Jérusalem (Paris, 26 November 1847), but that score was performed in Brussels during the summer of 1848. making reuse of the music in Nabucco the following autumn impossible. We must therefore assume either that the ballet music for Nabucco has completely disappeared, or that Verdi later resurrected it, in which case some of the ballet music for either Les Vêpres siciliennes, Le Trouvère, or the French Macbeth may have begun life in 1848 in the Brussels Nabucco.

During these years, *Nabucco* was occasionally bowdlerized (perhaps most extensively and spectacularly as the "oratorio" *Sennacherib* in Palermo in 1860). One point is perhaps worth stressing, in light of the reputation *Nabucco* holds as a *risorgimentale* opera: very rarely do we find that revivals were tampered with by the censor. For example, up to 1848, Zaccaria trumpeted out "Che sia morte allo stranier" (from the end of N. 2) all over Italy with perfect impunity; only during the far more repressive post-1848 period was this line occasionally replaced.⁴²

2. The Sources

The sources for *Nabucco* can be divided into four main categories: autographs, manuscript copies,

42. Perugia (1849) has "Contro il barbaro guerrier"; Macerata (1850) "Che dia morte all'oppressor"; Viterbo (1855) "Che ci additi il tuo voler." printed music, and librettos. Each source used for this edition is described fully in the first part of the Critical Commentary to the full score. Here, we offer no more than a general account.

Autograph Sources

The principal source for this edition of *Nabucco* is Verdi's autograph score. It is housed in the archives of Casa Ricordi in Milan, and is bound in three volumes: Part I: Part II: and Parts III and IV. Volume 2 also contains the partially autograph transposed version of N. 7, the Coro di Leviti (published as Appendix 2), and the "Preghiera Fenena puntata per la Zecchini" (published as Appendix 4). Verdi wrote this autograph in the same way as he did most of his scores, that is, in two phases, as described above. First he wrote the vocal parts with their text, instrumental solos for the sections lacking vocal parts, and a complete (if sometimes sketchy) instrumental bass. At the end of this first phase, copyists would extract the vocal parts, which had to be made available to the singers before rehearsals could begin. Only later, usually when Verdi had had a chance to hear his principal performers in situ, did the composer add full orchestration.

Verdi's autograph is not a fair copy of work already finished. Although he may have sketched each number before entering it in skeleton score in the autograph, the finished document is full of alterations. These vary from simple corrections of mechanical errors (instruments entered on the wrong staff, mistaken transpositions), to more substantial alterations of melodic ideas, and even to major recastings. Although in some instances Verdi's changes have obliterated earlier versions, it is in most cases possible to reconstruct this evidence of his creative process. Two passages that underwent important change are reconstructed and published in Appendix, and were discussed in the first part of this introduction. Minor changes to the vocal lines are reported in the Critical Notes; special attention is given to passages in which the changes help us to establish a definitive text.

In spite of these changes, the autograph of *Nabucco* is a document of great clarity that, on most important musical matters, reflects precisely the composer's wishes. Editorial interventions are based almost entirely on Verdi's notation, and other sources rarely play a part. Rarer still are occasions on which the editor has had to rely on his "musical intuition" to clarify a textual problem.

The only other known autograph source for *Nabucco* is the fragment containing Verdi's transcriptions of "Va pensiero" and "Immenso Jeovha" for four-voice chorus. These are dated

March 1842, and so come from the period immediately following (or, possibly, immediately preceding) the premiere at La Scala. Nothing is known about the occasion for which they might have been prepared. The manuscripts are housed in Milan's Museo Teatrale alla Scala. Transcriptions are printed in Appendix 3.

Manuscript Copies

An unknown number of copies of the autograph of *Nabucco* was prepared by the publisher Ricordi for distribution to theaters where the opera was to be performed. There is no doubt that other copies were made illegally, by theaters seeking to avoid rental and royalty payments. It was impossible to prevent the clandestine circulation of these copies, and it was difficult to protect the rights of the author. The history of the dissemination of the full score is therefore very complicated, a problem further compounded by the fact that we know very little about the workings of copyists during this period.

Manuscript copies of *Nabucco* are scattered about the world's libraries. Fifteen of them were located and studied.⁴³ None shows evidence of direct intervention by Verdi, and none was of more than passing importance for this edition.

Manuscript Orchestral Parts

There are several sets of manuscript parts for *Nabucco* in libraries around the world. One set was of particular importance to the edition: that containing the "Romanza Fenena" (N. 13b, Appendix 5) Verdi wrote for a revival in Venice on 26 December 1842. These parts, which constitute the only source for this additional aria, are briefly described in the Critical Notes.

Printed Musical Sources

During Verdi's lifetime, and for a long time afterwards, the orchestral score of *Nabucco* circulated in manuscript copies. Toward the end of the nineteenth century, Ricordi prepared a printed score of the Sinfonia (plate no. 99590). A printed score of the rest of the opera (plate no. 128083) was prepared only in 1949. Both these scores were intended for rental. They have no textual relevance for the critical edition. Nor do Ricordi's sets of printed parts, which were prepared in the twentieth century, constitute a source of any significance.

There is no evidence that Verdi played a part in the preparation of the first vocal score of

^{43.} This thanks to the efforts of the American Institute for Verdi Studies. Microfilms of all these sources are available for consultation at the institute's archive at New York University.

Nabucco, but its date gives this source some importance. From Ricordi's libroni (large volumes in which the publisher analytically cataloged work in progress), we learn that engraving began about a month after the premiere on 9 March. A complete vocal score was not, however, offered for sale until mid-October. The comparatively long delay was caused by a legal dispute between Ricordi and Francesco Lucca over rights to the score. This first vocal score (pvRI), with piano arrangement by Luigi Truzzi, is in oblong folio format, 229 pages long, with plate numbers 13806-13830. Even though it is not a primary source, the readings of pvRI at least reflect the opinion of musicians who were contemporaries of Verdi. These are particularly helpful when the notation of vocal parts in the autograph is unclear, or when Verdi omits essential dynamic markings.

In the critical edition, all modifications that come from printed sources are placed within parentheses. The Critical Notes specify the exact source.

Librettos

The principal source for the literary text of Nabucco is Verdi's autograph score. On occasions when this source is incomplete, the critical edition relies on the first printed edition of the libretto, published by Gaspare Truffi at the time of the opera's premiere (MI42). Except where punctuation is concerned, the Critical Notes signal every difference between Verdi's autograph and the printed libretto. When such differences exist, the critical edition follows the autograph unless Verdi clearly made a mistake. However, the division into scenes and the scenic descriptions do not appear in the autograph; they are taken from the printed libretto, and placed in parentheses to mark their derivation from a secondary source. Three further problems are best addressed separately.

1. Stage Directions

The printed libretto contains a large number of stage directions. Verdi wrote some of them unchanged in his autograph; sometimes he gave alternatives; occasionally he omitted them altogether. In the critical edition, all stage directions present in the autograph score appear in roman type. Any words derived from the printed libretto appear in parentheses. When there are important differences between the autograph and the printed libretto, the edition follows the autograph, placing Solera's text in a footnote; when the differences are minor, the reading of the printed libretto is listed only in the Critical Notes.

2. Variants in the Literary Text

Verdi may or may not have intervened during the creation of the libretto (see the first part of this introduction, p. XIX), but his autograph text differs from Solera's printed libretto in various ways. In some cases the differences are of single words, and perhaps even result in unintentional discrepancies. But on many occasions we can see clear musical reasons behind Verdi's alternatives. Sometimes he shortens and makes more direct Solera's syntactic curlicues: in Part II, Scene VI Abdallo's "infausto grido/Sorge che annuncia del mio re la morte!" becomes "infausto grido annunzia del mio re la morte!" Sometimes the alteration is linked to a declamatory rhythm, as when Fenena's "No!... sono Ebrea!" (Part II, Scene VIII) becomes "Io sono Ebrea!" in the autograph. In other cases Verdi went so far as to ignore the literary structure in his search for the most effective musical and dramatic form.

The famous chorus in Part III, "Va pensiero," offers a striking example of a discrepancy between the printed libretto and the autograph score. Solera's first line reads:

Va pensiero sull'ali dorate,

Verdi wrote "ale dorate" in the autograph score. Both forms are grammatically correct: "ale" (plural) is a common enough poetic variation and, what is more, has august usages in poets respected by Verdi.⁴⁴ The critical edition respects Verdi's choice of "ale dorate." One other point about this celebrated line: modern editions of the vocal score and libretto⁴⁵ have:

Va, pensiero, sull'ali dorate;

Is it too fanciful to guess that the parenthetical commas and closing semicolon function as an enshrinement, a subtle indicator that this text had been appropriated by the myth-makers?

3. Spelling and Punctuation

Nineteenth-century Italian orthography often differs from that of modern times, and Verdi's presents its own peculiarities. This edition preserves Verdi's orthography unless it is obviously mistaken (as, for example, when the composer wrote "assirio" [rather than "assiro"] as the adjectival form, or muddled his double consonants).

Verdi very often omitted to supply punctuation to his text, and sometimes the signs he used are different from those of the printed libretto.

45. See, for example, Luigi Baldacci, ed., Tutti i libretti di Verdi (Milan, 1975), p. 45.

^{44.} See the entry on "ala" in Salvatore Battaglia, ed., *Grande dizionario della lingua italiana*, vol. 1 (Turin, 1961), pp. 279-81.

The critical edition follows Verdi's punctuation whenever it exists; where none is present, the punctuation of the printed libretto is usually followed. Editorial manipulations of this kind are not listed in the Critical Notes except when the changes are of particular importance or interest. When it is necessary to add commas because of textual repetitions, the edition does so without further notice.

3. Problems in Editing and Performing *Nabucco*

The problems that arise in preparing a critical edition of *Nabucco*, and in performing that edition, can be divided into two distinct but related groups: those that arise from peculiarities in Verdi's notation; and those that depend on performance practice in the mid-nineteenth century.

Notational Problems

The autograph of *Nabucco* is written with great clarity and accuracy, especially when we consider that Verdi prepared it in two stages, and that he expected it to be copied by trained musicians rather than be used as the basis for a printed edition. There are, however, occasions that present problems of interpretation. Some involve the overall form of the opera, its division into "parts" and "numbers." Others hinge on the very act of writing and revising. The ink may not have come regularly from the pen nib, and blots and smears could result; or there was too little ink, and the composer would have to go over his signs again, making the notation appear retouched or corrected. Verdi also made numerous small alterations simply by smearing away still-wet ink, and, less frequently, he recast passages by scraping away dry ink and writing a new version over the top. In some cases these revisions create uncertainty about his final intention, but in general the manuscript leaves little room for doubt. Certainly the most spectacular instance of revision occurs in the Finale Ultimo (N. 13), in which the ensemble "Immenso Jeovha" was completely recast, with a new text (see the transcription in Appendix 1E). But, even in this case, Verdi's final thoughts are in no doubt. In all cases, large and small, problematic passages are discussed in the Critical Notes.

So far as large-scale divisions are concerned, the autograph is not entirely free from confusion. For example, at the start of N. 12, there is no reference to "Parte Quarta," leaving some slight doubt as to whether the assigning of the final two numbers to a separate "part" had

Verdi's explicit approval. However, given the evidence of the printed libretto and first vocal score, the critical edition has little hesitation in assuming that this was merely an oversight on the composer's part. More problematic is the division of the opera into "numbers." As mentioned in the Critical Commentary to the full score (see introductory notes to each number, under "Title"), the numeration heading each main section of the autograph is not in Verdi's hand: we must therefore rely on his titles, on the musical continuity, and on the physical structure of the manuscript, in order to arrive at an "authentic" division into numbers. The cases of NN. 1 and 2 are a good example. N. 1 is entitled "Introduzione" by Verdi, and leads without a musical break into the next section to carry a title, the "Recitativo e Cavatina Zaccaria." The latter was numbered "2" by someone. But, at least in the traditional and in the strictly musical sense, it is clearly a continuation of the "Introduzione." In this case, the critical edition has adopted the new number for Zaccaria's Cavatina, considering Verdi's title (and, incidentally, the new fascicle of manuscript paper that begins here) as sufficient evidence that Verdi was starting afresh. But the decision was marginal. In other cases, for example that of the "Seguito del Finale 1.ª Parte" (f. 62, m. 142 of N. 4), the presence of an autograph title (and a new fascicle of manuscript paper) was not considered sufficient evidence (either by the edition or by the unknown person who numbered the autograph) to introduce a new "number," given the fact that we are clearly in the middle of a traditional closed form.

Difficulties arise in passages where Verdi left conflicting instructions on how to perform his music. In particular, there are frequent incongruities in the disposition of articulation and dynamic markings. Only rarely can such incongruities be justified as a deliberate attempt on Verdi's part to differentiate between various levels of simultaneous dynamics or articulation. A rare case of "split-level" dynamics that seem deliberate occurs at the start of the *stretta* to N. 4 (m. 257), in which the melodic line is marked **mf** while the brass accompaniment is marked **p**. More often than not, though, the variations are haphazard, and editorial suggestions are given for the most likely compromise.

The case of inconsistent slurs is more complex, as here we deal with an area in which our perception of what is "musical" may lead us to prefer certain types of slur over others. Verdi was often free with his placement of slurs: they can stretch on, indenting the page after the ink has run dry; they are sometimes merely horizontal lines above a phrase, with no clear indication of where precisely they begin and end;

some interpretation is necessary. The anonymous editors who prepared pRI had no qualms, and consistently lengthened Verdi's slurs to conform to the then-current fashion; they also added further slurs wherever they thought them appropriate. This critical edition is, understandably, a great deal more cautious. It is far from clear precisely what Verdi intended by his slurs, other than a general sense of legato. An added problem is that slurs may mean different things when applied to different types of performer: a vocal slur may well not have exactly the same force as one on the violin, for example. In such matters, circumspection is all. The critical edition hardly ever suggests added slurs for vocal lines unless Verdi has himself slurred a passage identical in both words and music, and hardly ever suggests instrumental slurs from vocal models or vice versa. The edition has also attempted to find a firmly neutral stance on whether, in equivocal cases, it is more "musical" to choose a longer slur over a shorter, or vice versa. Nevertheless, in order to achieve consistency between parallel instrumental parts, a good number of Verdi's slurs have had to be extended or shortened, and a good number of additional instrumental slurs suggested. When the chosen model is a longer slur, missing parts of the other slurs are rendered by broken lines. When the chosen model is shorter, the original slur is specified in a footnote. Suggested additional slurs are rendered by broken lines. Readers and performers are thus provided with all the evidence, and are equipped to experiment with alternative solutions. Particularly complex cases are discussed in the Critical Notes.

Performance Practice

Little research has been done on Italian theaters and performance practice in the mid-nineteenth century. But a sensitive, thoughtful performance of an opera such as Nabucco requires consideration of many problems, starting with the fundamental issue of the physical space in which the opera is to be performed. While the outer shell and main architectural features of many Italian nineteenth-century theaters remain unchanged to this day, the introduction of the socalled mystic gulf profoundly altered the web of acoustic relationships between the various elements of the performance. At the time of Nabucco, and until the diffusion of Wagnerian dramaturgy, the orchestra was on the same, or almost the same, level as the audience on the main floor. Placing the orchestra considerably below audience level has altered the balance and ultimately the acoustic cohesion that should exist between singers and orchestra; moreover, it has changed the nature and quality of the audience's reception of the sound. Thus, without wholesale alteration of a theater's inner structure, certain aspects of the original performance are impossible to reproduce; it also follows that, if existing spaces are used, there will frequently be the need to modify various elements of the original performance in order to accommodate the changed conditions.

There are, however, practical steps that those involved with modern performances can take. Many problems could be avoided if performers and producers understood the grammar and conventions of nineteenth-century operatic language and observed the priority that needs to be given to the requirements of music and singing. One of the most important points to bear in mind is that a mid-nineteenth-century Italian stage would stretch out approximately to what is now the fifth row of the orchestra stalls, and that singers of the period traditionally sang near the front of the stage. To oblige them to sing standing far back from the modern proscenium is to deal them (and of course the audience) a double blow.

We might also add a word about the "director" of the opera. Strictly speaking there was no such person in mid-nineteenth-century Italian theaters. Acting was governed by a limited code of stylized actions, a code far nearer the eighteenth-century doctrine of "affections" than it was to modern ideas of "naturalism." The librettist traditionally supervised the staging. and his task was to make sure that his written instructions were carried out, that historical propriety was observed. Nothing more was required. The music was the "interpretation" of the libretto; to add another layer of "interpretation" would have been at best redundant, at worst contradictory. A further serious distortion comes from expecting the singers to engage in complicated business during the singing of set pieces. Such evidence as we have suggests that, on the whole, singers remained stationary during set pieces: the dramatic "frozen moment" finding its natural echo in a static visual tableau.

During the first half of the nineteenth century, Italian theaters relied on new works to form the basis of the repertory. A collection of "standard classics" began increasingly to dominate as the century went on, but it was only some time after Verdi's middle-period works that revivals became the staple of the opera house. At the time of *Nabucco*, the audience at La Scala would have been outraged not to find at least two works new to Milan – if not to the world – on each season's *cartellone*. Operas were often staged at very short notice (if we are to believe Verdi's recollections in later life, *Nabucco* had just twelve days from first rehearsal

to premiere)⁴⁶ and, in some senses at least, would certainly have lacked the polish of their modern-day revivals. But we must not ignore the fact that, although the individual works may have been new, the tradition in which they were couched was age-old. There were no problems of "interpretation" in the modern sense, no alien conventions, no linguistic difficulties.

We would also do well to remember that the forces employed in an operatic production were, at the time of Nabucco, rather different from those we use today. As we can see from the personnel list in MI42, the modern-day role of "conductor" was split into two. First on the list comes the "maestro al cembalo," sometimes called the "maestro di musica" or "maestro concertatore." He was the director of the solo vocal parts: he rehearsed the singers and, when required, directed the secco recitative from the "cembalo" (a generic name for keyboard instruments). He might also advise the singers about ornaments, perhaps even write examples for them to perform. But his presence did not prevent the principal singers from having a considerable musical influence on the performance; if the composer were on call, singers sometimes requested changes that would accommodate the music more exactly to their vocal means; if he were absent, they often made wholesale changes in the score, substituting arias in which they knew they could produce an effect.

The other key figure in a performance was the "primo violino, capo, e direttore d'orchestra." We know that, at La Scala a little earlier in the century, the "capo d'orchestra" and the other first violins would stand at the front of the orchestra, with their backs to the audience, facing the remainder of the players. 47 This "direttore" directed not from a full score, but from a first-violin part to which were added the main vocal entrances and important instrumental cues, as well as a good deal of the literary text. Only a single copy of this amplified first-violin part was provided, and it usually circulated in manuscript only. 48

These performing conditions were possible because operatic style was so uniform, and so uniformly understood. And, as a direct result, Verdi's score lacks one or two elements that modern performers find essential. The most obvious of these lacunae is in dynamic levels, especially in passages that are sparingly orchestrated. It is surely significant that the one complete number that has no dynamic or tempo indication is N. 6, Zaccaria's Preghiera, which is almost entirely for solo instruments. Such things could safely be left to the discretion of performers. We cannot rely on such understanding today, and so the critical edition has, sparingly and always with the appropriate typographical distinction, supplied essential dynamic levels and tempo markings, either from pvRI or on the basis of the musical character of the section.

But the most contentious topic in modern performances of nineteenth-century Italian opera is the extent to which singers should be permitted or encouraged to add ornaments to their parts. This is a murky area, one that badly needs further research; here we can touch on only a few basic issues as they affect Nabucco. Perhaps most obvious is that Nabucco was composed during a period of transition, at a time when ornamentation of the vocal line was becoming increasingly less an obligatory element of a singer's performance. Countless contemporary reviews draw attention to this change in taste, commenting on the fact that this or that singer was "out of date" or "up to date" in the quantity of embellishment they chose to employ. Another point becomes clear from journals of the day: the use of added ornaments was, by this period, virtually the exclusive domain of female singers: Verdi hardly ever wrote florid tenor or bass parts, and it is unlikely that he imagined (or intended) that ornamentation should be added by the performer. This leaves us, in Nabucco, with Abigaille and Fenena as possible targets. In the former case, Verdi has, with characteristic skill, bound the ornamental element inseparably to the dynamic character of the line; it would seem difficult to add anything more, even on the cabaletta repeat of N. 5. In the latter case, Verdi has obligingly supplied us with an ornamented version of Fenena's Preghiera (published as Appendix 4); it is probably better to leave well enough alone.

^{46.} See above, p. XXI.

^{47.} See Marcello Conati, "Teatri e orchestre al tempo di Verdi," in Giuseppe Verdi: Vicende, problemi e mito di un artista e del suo tempo (Colorno, 1985), pp. 47-78.

^{48.} The performing material that constitutes the only source for the "Romanza Fenena" Verdi wrote for La Fenice, Venice (N. 13b, Appendix 5) includes such a part (see Critical Commentary to Appendix 5 of the full score). In a few cases, parts were printed: see the examples cited in Giuseppe Verdi, *Rigoletto* (Chicago-Milan, 1983), edited by Martin Chusid, introduction, p. XXVII, n. 87.

CRITICAL NOTES

Sinfonia

54-107 A: V indicated only the following dynamics: at 71, p in Trn; at 88, pp in Trn, VI I, and VI II, and p in Cb (Vc = Cb); at 97, p in Tr and pp in Trn. RI imposes an alternation of ff at 70, pp at 74, ff at 78, and pp at 82. There are no markings in A to suggest this alternation of extremes. One could, of course, hypothesize that the p in Trn at 71 refers only to these instruments, but what would then be required in Cor I, II and Vle? Had V wanted such an extreme differentiation in dynamics, it is unlikely he would have omitted all such indications. WGV prefers to derive its dynamic levels from extensions of V's markings. It should go without saying that p does not always mean the same thing: a p applied to a solo melody in Ob and Cl with pizzicato string accompaniment (as at 54) is different from a p applied to a fuller texture (as at 70).

Of the thirteen manuscript copies that contain the Sinfonia, only three (B-Ba, B-Bc, and US-NYp²) have an alternation of dynamic levels such as is found in RI. 301-302 VI I A: That there is a tie across the barline only in VI I (presumably part of the skeleton score) is suspicious, even if the sign is repeated in 305-306, where VI I is the only explicit part. Though the position of the # at 302 (on the third beat) suggests V wanted the tie, at 306 he placed the # on the downbeat, suggesting he did not want it. Because the examples are so few in number here, WGV consigns these ties to a footnote.

N. 1. Introduzione

Source

For reasons discussed fully in the introduction, WGV regards this Introduzione as a separate number, even though it runs without a break into N. 2. As a result, the final measure of N. 1 is also the first measure of N. 2.

Critical Notes

- 1 MI⁴²: Solera's biblical reference, to "Gerem. XXXII," is incorrect. The quotation actually comes from Jeremiah XXXIV: 2, in the Italian translation of the Bible by Giovanni Diodati. WGV supplies the correct reference.
- 1-3 A: The only dynamic is an f in VI I at the start of 3. WGV has extended this mark back to 1, and applied it to all instruments. But its placement in VI I implies a ______ through the rising arpeggio of 2. WGV makes explicit this suggestion in both 2 and 6, as in pvRI.
- 18 Coro D. A: | | | | / WGV alters the pattern to conform with T. and B.

- 19 Coro A: "cadono" / WGV corrects this to "cadono," as in MI⁴².
- **30** Coro D. A: "Rege" / WGV follows the lowercase "r" V wrote in B. at 29, as in MI⁴².
- 34 Coro B: A: The second two eighth notes were originally drawn with separate stems, over which V wrote a single connecting beam. This emendation does not reflect the declamation, and WGV follows the notation of Coro D. and T.
- 55-56 Coro B. MI42: "le vive preghiera."
- 58 Coro B. MH⁴²: "è grato profumo che sale al Signor."
- 58-59 A: It would be tempting to make the orchestral phrasing conform to 50-51. Because harmonic detail and articulation are quite different, however, WGV preserves the discrepancy.
- **63-71** Coro B. MI⁴²: "Per voi della fiera nemica falange sia nullo il furor!" In A, V wrote a different text: "in voi della fiera falange nemica s'aqueti [sic] il furor!" WGV corrects V's spelling of "s'acqueti."
- 71-96 A: There are very few explicit dynamic levels in this section: **p** for Coro D. at 72, **pp** for Coro D. at 78 and for Cor I, II at 79, **pp** for Coro D. at 87, and **pp** for Coro D. at 95. **WGV** respects the choral indications, while adding a suggested **p** at the upbeat of 81 (parallel to the upbeat of 73), and moving the **pp** at 87 to the preceding upbeat (as at 78). In the absence of adequate instrumental markings in **A**, **WGV** accepts and extends the Cor I, II **pp** at 79, and supplies other markings parallel to the choral indications.
- 75 Coro D. MI42: "dei venti."
- 78 Coro D. MI42: "dai nembi."
- 82, 90, 92 Coro D. A: Though the number of different notes is reduced to two on the third beat, V did not specify which part should be sung by Coro D. II. WGV follows his notation at 74, assigning Coro D. II to the tonic. The same problem recurs at 106, 114, and 116.

- 90 Coro D. A: "la nostre preghiere." In addition, the downward stem for the last note of the measure has only a single flag, signifying \(\); WGV alters it to \(\), as implied by the previous dotted eighth rest and as explicitly drawn by V in the upward stem.

92-95 Coro D. A: V's use of stems is inconsistent: sometimes all three notes are on a single stem; sometimes the top two are stemmed together; sometimes the bottom two. Given the similar motion of the voices at 92-95, WGV employs a single stem for all three voices. Thus, the accents at 93 and 95 are interpreted as affecting all three notes. (Notice that at 89, in a different musical context, the stemming and accent were interpreted differently.)

96 Coro D. A: The ff comes after "Deh!" WGV follows Coro B. and places it before the word.

100-104 MI⁴²: The words "Il Dio d'Israello si cela per tema?" are in italics. Though they are not differentiated in A, WGV renders the effect desired in MI⁴² by underlining them.

104-105 Coro A: The ff indications occur at the beginning of 105. WGV follows the musical sense and moves them to the upbeat in 104.

108 Coro D. A: , | / WGV adjusts the value of the upbeat as in Coro T. and B., as well as in the instrumental parts.

110 Coro D. A: On the third beat there is a single $c \sharp''$, with an upward stem. V presumably forgot to add the two lower voices. WGV supplies the missing $g \sharp' + c \sharp''$.

112 Coro D. A: pp / Both Coro T. (at 113) and orchestral markings suggest a level of p, adopted by WGV.

119-127 Coro A: "l'assirio."

121 Coro B. A: | | | / WGV alters the second half of the measure, by analogy with 125, to accommodate the verse.

130-132 Coro A: V neglected to repeat "stranier" after the downbeat of 130, but his intention is clear. WGV supplies the necessary text.

N. 2. Recitativo [e] Cavatina Zaccaria

1 As mentioned in the Notes to N. 1, this measure is both the last of N. 1 (i.e., 136) and the first of N. 2. In the main body of the score, the composer included it as the first measure of N. 2, on f. 27.

2 Zac A: | | / WGV assumes that V neglected to add a second prolonging dot to the second note.

4 A: V wrote Largo twice over the VI I staff, once at the start of the measure, once at the end. WGV reproduces only the former, which coincides with the double bar.

ure / Given the rhythmic context of these measures, WGV assumes V simply neglected to write the second

dot, and emends the part accordingly.

19-21 Zac A: V made two earlier attempts at writing this passage. The first version, on Zac's usual staff, takes the singer to f':



The second version, written on the staff above and itself showing signs of erasure (or at least smudging), reads:



V crossed out both these versions, and supplied the definitive one on the staff below. The changes probably reflect the composer's attempts to suit this cadenza-like passage precisely to the voice of Prosper Dérivis, the original Zac.

22-23 Zac A: "Idio."

25 Zac MI⁴²: The libretto has a semicolon after "aita"; WGV substitutes a period. The MI⁴² punctuation reflects the fact that "D'Egitto là sui lidi" does not open a fixed poetic form, but is the third line of a stanza that began at "Freno al timor!" V disregarded the poetic structure, yet failed to supply punctuation in A after "aita."

40 Zac A: The line originally read:



When V altered it to the definitive version, he only partially deleted the prolonging dot on d'.

68-69 Coro MI42: "Qual rumore?.."

74-75 Ism A: "s'avvanza"; the correct spelling is in MI⁴².

81-82 Zac MI⁴²: "porrà il cielo"; V's modification is quite clear.

82 Zac A: V originally wrote g on the first beat, but later changed it to b.

85-86 Zac MI⁴²: "sulle rovine."

89 Zac A: The note on the downbeat was originally c'.

90-92 Zac A, MI⁴²: In A, Zac = "Quella prima fra le Assirie"; in MI⁴², Zac = "Questa prima fra le assire." WGV follows A in "Quella," but corrects its spelling of "Assirie."

98-187 A: V left traces of an earlier version of this

cabaletta. Passages in which the presence of the earlier version creates problems in determining the final text are mentioned in Notes 99-100 and 111-112 bellow.

98-187 Coro MI⁴²: No text is provided for Coro in the cabaletta. We do not know whether this was simply a misreading of Solera's manuscript libretto, but in any case V derived text for the choral interventions from Zac's stanzas.

98 A: There is no dynamic level, nor is one given in pvRI. Clearly it is not the ff of the preceding measures. The p at 107 is in a context that suggests a reduction in dynamic level. Perhaps an absence of dynamic level means nothing exceptional at either end of the spectrum. WGV chooses mp, bearing in mind that many of V's most "energetic" cabalettas start rather quietly. The problem of dynamic levels does not end here. It seems unlikely that V intended a level of ff to be maintained throughout 114-120, but the passage would require more complex interventions than the addition of a single initial level. In the absence of autograph evidence, WGV leaves this problem to the judgment of performers.

99-100 Zac A: The slurs belong to the earlier version of the melody and were partially erased in its revision. That V drew a slur in the repeat of the cabaletta theme at 136 (which has only the definitive melody), however, suggests they should be preserved.

111-112 Zac A: There were > on the downbeat in the original version of the melody in both measures. In the revision these accents were not erased, but they lie far from the definitive notes. In the repetition of the cabaletta theme at 147-148, the accents are not present, nor are they found in any choral parts. WGV considers them to be associated only with the original version of the melody and does not include them.

112 Zac, Coro MI⁴²: "che dia morte" / V changed this throughout the cabaletta to "che sia morte."

113 Zac A: There is a staccato on the second beat. In the absence of supporting evidence, WGV suppresses it. Note that in the repeat of the cabaletta theme (149), V wrote staccati on the triplet in every vocal part, but none on the ensuing quarter notes.

146 Zac A: | J | J | / This differs from the parallel passage at 110. Though WGV generally prefers to retain discrepancies between two statements of a cabaletta theme, the reading at 110 seems distinctly preferable and has been adopted at 146.

161 Coro B. A: "-cendi," the conclusion of "accendi." This is an unerased remnant from a superseded text (see Note 98-187, A).

166 Zac A: | | | | / Prolonging the d' through the third beat creates an uncharacteristic harmonic clash. WGV adopts the note value () from the parallel passage at 160.

169 Coro D. A: | | / WGV adds a further prolonging dot, following Coro T. and B.

171-172 Coro T. A: Two slurs join the last notes of 171 to the first notes of 172. As they find no corroboration in parallel parts, WGV deletes them.

N. 3. Recitativo e Terzettino

4, 8 WGV: The dynamic indications, which follow the natural tendencies of the music, are derived from pvRI.

10 Ism MI⁴²: "O mia diletta!"

14 A: V wrote Andante above and below the staves, but also added it to Ism, to the left of the "cantabile." The notation does not suggest Andante cantabile, and WGV presumes V simply intended to write Andante yet a third time, next to the vocal line. For visual clarity, WGV suppresses this extra appearance of the term.

18-19 Ism MI42: "ambasciador."

24-25 Ism A: V originally wrote "l'invido e feroce," but "feroce" was crossed out and another word (illegible) was added. Finally, a hand other than V's wrote "crudele" above the vocal line. WGV accepts this final reading, also found in MI⁴².

26-27 Ism **A**: The same process of double erasure occurred here (see Note 24-25). V originally wrote:



Later he changed the music to the definitive version, crossing out "nascosto" and writing a further (now illegible) word below. Finally, another hand added "furente" above the vocal line. WGV accepts this final reading, also found in MI⁴².

39-43 Ism A: V changed his mind at least three times before arriving at a definitive version of this passage, crossing out and erasing earlier versions and eliminating an entire bar. His first version of 39-40 was:



He then changed the accompaniment at 39, as in the definitive version, and wrote the following vocal line (notice his repetition of the text "il mio petto a te la strada"):



Only after a shortened third version (omitting the text repetition),



did he arrive at the definitive text. By this time, the score had become so messy that, from the final beat of 39, he was obliged to write Ism's line on the staff above.

49 Fen, Ism MI⁴²: The stage direction is: "(atterriti)"; in the context of the score, WGV has preferred to print "(atterrita)" for Fen and "(atterrito)" for Ism.

50 MI⁴²: The beginning of the stage direction is different: "s'arresta innanzi ai due amanti, indi con [etc.]." In **A**, V misspells the second word as "improvisamente."

53 Abi A: V originally wrote "a piace[re]" at the beginning of the measure, but later crossed it out and wrote "ad libit[um]" by its side. WGV places "ad libitum" at the beginning of the measure.

57 Abi A: "d'assiria."

76 A: V wrote Andante at the top of 76, but Adagio above Fl. As the Adagio is attached to a sounding instrument, WGV adopts it, saving Andante for 84. This solution also appears in pvRI.

76 WGV: The (p) comes from pvRI.

79-82 MI⁴²: The stage direction is slightly different: "(dopo breve pausa s'avvicina ad Ismaele e gli dice sottovoce)."

85 Abi MI42: "il regno, il core."

87 Abi A: The first slur is somewhat short, and the second stretches back, so that would be a possible reading. WGV rejects this interpretation, however, on prosodic as well as musical grounds.

89 Abi MI42: "questo amore."

89 Abi A: V changed his mind twice about the setting of "è quest'a[more]" before arriving at the

definitive version. He originally wrote $g'-g'-g\sharp'$; then he substitued $c''-c''-c\sharp''$, as at 85. Finally, he erased this new version and restored the earlier layer.

93 Abi A: ... on the second and third beats / As V was often careless in supplying double dots, WGV makes the simpler emendation, adding an extra dot to the first note.

93-94 Abi MI⁴²:

Ah, se m'ami, *ti* potrei *Col* tuo popolo salvar!

94 Abi A: The ornament to the penultimate note lacks a slash, but the musical context requires one (as at the penultimate note of 93).

96-102 Ism MI⁴²:

No!... la vita io t'abbandono, Ma il mio core nol poss'io; Di mia sorte io lieto sono,

101-104 Ism A: The phrase was originally different. Here is a possible reconstruction:



Though the a' at the second beat of 103 is double dotted, it is followed by a $\$; WGV omits the second dot.

108 Ism MI^{42} : "Sol ti possa" / V wrote "Ma ti possa" throughout the concluding section.

114-123 Abi, Fen, Ism A: V made such extensive revisions to the vocal parts of these measures that it was necessary to have 114-122 recopied on a separate folio, f. 52^r (f. 52^v is blank). As the recopied version is not in V's hand, there exists some doubt as to its authenticity. In several places, however, it offers a version not recoverable from the main body of the score, suggesting that V prepared an intermediate draft of the passage, which he passed to the copyist. It seems unlikely a copyist would have revised the music without V's participation. WGV bases its text on the recopied folio.

The first layer of the vocal parts was as follows:



This version was entered completely, with full text. It is not always possible to be sure which slurs were present in each version. A few problems are worth noting:

120: The unlikely difference in declamation in Fen between 120 and 115 is present in A. In the final version, the variant of 115 occurs in both instances.

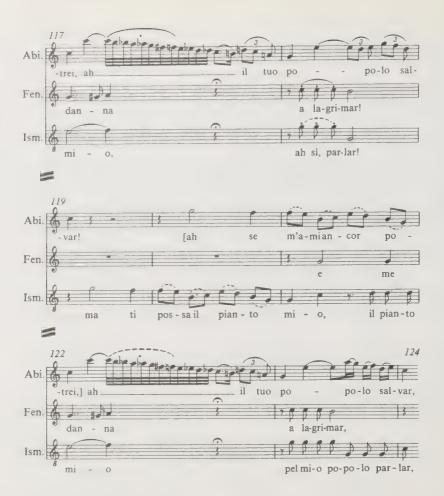
122: In Abi, the notes in the triplet on the fourth

beat are, incorrectly, beamed together. WGV separates the final note, as in 117.

123: An illegible verbal instruction appears over the third beat in Abi.

Sometime later, V decided to alter the order of vocal entrances from Fen – Ism – Abi of the first version to Ism – Abi – Fen. He entered this second version, erasing the earlier version as best he could:





The music offers no transcription problems (especially in the second half of the phrase, where made no attempt to enter a "third" layer), but some of the text is less certain:

114-116: V omitted the text in these measures for Ism; the correct text can be derived from the second layer at the parallel 119-121.

120-122: V wrote the wrong text for Abi: "ma ti possa il pianto mio." The correct words, "ah se m'ami ancor potrei," is correctly notated in this layer at the parallel 115-117.

Finally, V decided to return to what was essentially his first layer. He made a desperate, unsuccessful attempt to indicate this in the first half of the phrase in the main score. His efforts are particularly clear in Fen, who is the first to sing in this version: the third layer was entered over the incompletely erased first layer in a darker ink. V tried to do the same in Ism, and also erased the second layer in Abi, but then gave up the attempt. There is no source to fill the gap between this attempted third layer in A and the added f. 52^r, in the hand of a copyist. The presence of some important changes between the main score (in any of its layers) and the added folio suggests that, unless we are prepared to assume the copyist made major

changes in V's text on his own initiative, V must ultimately have provided some material from which the copyist worked.

WGV accepts the copyist's version of 114-122 at f. 52^r as the basis for the critical edition, with the following queries and emendations on the basis of the autograph materials:

Abigaille

121: Though it would be possible to argue for adopting the > from the first version here (and, by extension, at 116), WGV prefers to omit it.

122: The chromatic scale is written as a series of quarter notes on f. 52^r. WGV considers this version too visually emphatic, and believes the musical sense of the phrase is better served by beaming the notes together, as at both 117 and 122 in the two autograph versions. Perhaps the large fermata in 117 in the first version captures better the freedom with which this scale should be sung, but WGV allows the more precisely placed fermatas of f. 52^r to stand unchanged. In any event the cadenza should be sung with considerable freedom.

Fenena

114, 119: On both occasions, V wrote "Oh proteggi," while in both MI42 and f. 52^r, the words are

"Sol proteggi." It seems clear that V heard the text as "Oh proteggi," and the change on f. 52^r is probably a gesture of obeisance by the copyist to the text of the libretto. WGV follows A.

118, 123: Though there is no slur at 118 in f. 52^r, the model V provided at 118 is so clear and musically justified that **WGV** includes a dotted slur at both 118 and 123.

Ismaele

115, 120: When V set Ism's text at 108, he changed "Sol ti possa il pianto mio" to "Ma ti possa." Returning to the text at 115 and 120 in the first layer, he wrote "Ma" both times. Preparing the second layer, he wrote "Ma" at 119 (not at 114, where he neglected to enter text). He even wrote "Ma" together with the Ism words (inappropriately) in Abi at 120-121. This all suggests that the "Sol ti possa" on f. 52^r, at both 115 and 120, is an attempt to correct V's text in accordance with MI⁴². It is impossible to accept this reading without also changing V's text at 108. WGV follows V's "Ma" throughout.

118, 123: Neither staccati nor slurs are present either at 118 (on f. 52^r) or at 123 (in V's autograph): in both places there is no articulation at all for Ism. **WGV**'s slur is imitated from Fen in the first layer at 118; the staccati are all present in the first layer of Ism at 118. This articulation is perfectly appropriate to the context and seems well worth preserving.

123 Abi A: As mentioned in Note 114-123, V wrote an illegible instruction over the a''.

126 Fen, Ism, Fl, Cl A: All parts originally had the rhythm: | \(\rangle \gamma \)

Though V altered this reading to

in Fen and Ism, he neglected to do so in Fl and Cl. The two divergent rhythms cannot coexist, however, and WGV has altered Fl and Cl to agree with the corrected vocal parts. This version is also given in pvRI.

127-128 Abi A: The part originally read:



V's corrections are somewhat messy, but the final version does not present serious uncertainties. In the next phrase, the \sharp before the first c'', clearly present in **A**, is omitted in **pvRI**. There is no ambiguity in V's notation here, nor any reason not to follow it.

N. 4. Finale Parte Prima

15-16 A: WGV preserves the discrepancy between the four accents per measure seen in several parts here, and the two accents per measure in 3-4. It is at

least possible that V wanted greater emphasis for this repetition of the figure.

22, 26 Coro A: in B. (22) and D. (26) WGV deletes one prolonging dot and alters the to , as in all parallel instrumental parts (see also 10 and 14).

46-47 Coro T. MI42: "la rovina."

52-70 Zac A: V marked the part "col [Primo] Basso del Coro"; WGV assigns him a separate staff.

59 Coro T. A: In addition to the slur covering the first three notes, a shorter slur, which **WGV** has suppressed, covers only the first two notes.

60-61 Coro T. A: "ahi sventura" / Following Coro D., WGV alters the text to "Chi difende."

73 A: "s'avvanza."

73 Abi A: | | | | | / Assuming the very evident double dot is unlikely to be an error, WGV halves the final note.

76 A: The tempo indication above the staff was originally **Allegro vivace**, altered subsequently by V to **Allegro marziale**.

76-77 Zac MI⁴²: "Chi passo."

77 Zac A: V originally wrote d for the first three notes of the measure, then corrected them to d'.

81-82 Abi A: "s'avvanza."

145-147 A: The accents in the instrumental parts are unusually large, and might be construed as ______ . WGV prefers the accents.

152 MI⁴²: The stage direction concludes differently: "dice a Nabucco."

155 Zac A: on the third and fourth beats / WGV corrects the rhythm by halving the last note, as in the declamation at 153 and 157.

160 Nab MI42: "dal cavallo."

162-166 Nab A: Although V wrote "da sé," he neglected to place the text in parentheses. WGV derives these from MI⁴².

169-226 MI⁴²: Solera placed the strophe for Nab within parentheses, and opened (but neglected to close) parentheses around the strophe for Abi and the one shared by Zac, Ism, Anna, and Coro. Though there are no indications of parentheses in A, WGV derives them from MI⁴².

179-180 Nab A: "pianti lai" / WGV follows MI⁴² in adding the conjunction, as in A at 181.

182 Nab pvRI: Reacting to the superfluous sharp V wrote before the c' (second note on the second beat), pvRI (and all subsequent editions) assumed V heard a sharpening of the note, hence "corrected" the reading to $c \times '$. But the argument works equally well in the opposite direction: V may have deliberately added the sharp to warn readers *not* to sharpen the note further. Given the uncertainty, WGV preserves V's explicit notation.

184-225 Fen MI⁴²: Solera provided a full four-verse strophe:

Padre, pietade – ti parli al core!...

Vicina a morte – per te qui sono!...

Sugli infelici – scenda il perdono,

E la tua figlia – salva sarà!

Although V ultimately used all these verses, he emphasized Fen's plight by having her repeat again and again: "Padre, pietade, pietà." In the absence of autograph models for punctuation, WGV supplies an exclamation point at the conclusion of major divisions of the movement.

185-226 Anna A: V did not originally write a separate part for Anna. Later he returned to the score and, using a smaller script, added the part on Fen's staff. Though V often omitted Anna's words, they can always be derived from parallel parts.

187 Anna A: The final note =]; following Ism and Zac, WGV halves the value.

188 Abi A: Though the final note appears to be $a[\sharp]'$, in this context the note must be read as b'.

188 Fen, Ism A: V originally wrote the penultimate notes as $g[\sharp]''$ (Fen) and $g[\sharp]'$ (Ism); the final version is in no doubt.

190 Anna, Zac A: Zac originally =



on the third beat / V subsequently crossed out the first two notes of the triplet and substituted a single $g\sharp$. He wrote the same part for Anna (an octave higher), but neglected to emend it. Because Anna's part is rather carelessly notated and because an unacceptable harmonic clash would result with Ism, WGV corrects Anna just as V himself corrected Zac.

191-192 A: There are inconsistencies in V's notation of the rests and notes on the second beat. At 191, Anna, Fen, and Ism = $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, while Zac and Coro D., T., B. = $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, while Coro D., T., B. = $\frac{1}{2}$. WGV regularizes to $\frac{1}{2}$. $\frac{1}{2}$, which WGV considers to represent V's intention. See also Note 201.

191-193 Anna A: There was no room for V to include text for Anna; WGV supplies it from the parallel parts, Ism, Zac, and Coro D., T., and B.

196-197 Nab A: "cadrà" / This is one of Abi's words. WGV assumes this was a lapse and substitutes Nab's tronco word, "dovrà."

199-200 Anna, Fen, Zac A: The dynamic levels occur at the start of 200. WGV brings them forward to the upbeat in Anna and Zac.

201 A: As at 191-192 (see Note), there are inconsistencies in V's rhythmic notation on the third beat in the vocal parts: Anna, Fen, Ism, and Coro D.

= 7. | , Zac and Coro T. and B. = 7. | . Again, WGV prefers 7.. | . At the parallel 202, 203, and 204, however, V consistently wrote

7. Although an argument could be made for regularizing the rhythm to that of 201, especially at 202 and 203, WGV follows the notation of A, leaving eventual modifications up to the performers.

202 Anna A: on the second beat / This is surely a careless error in the hastily added part for Anna. WGV proposes 7, as in all parallel parts.

202 Coro B. A: The second 7 lacks its prolonging dot; WGV supplies the necessary sign, as in all parallel parts.

202-204 Anna, Ism A: V originally tied the first two notes together in Anna at 202-204 and in Ism at 202 and 204. He clearly erased these incorrect signs in Anna, though not in Ism. WGV omits them.

204 Fen A: Originally, Fen $= e[\sharp]''$ on the last beat, together with Anna. Later, to the left of this double-stemmed note, V added $c[\sharp]''$, which WGV assumes was intended for Fen.

208 A: Though V only marked ff at 202, in the melody at 207, and pp for Coro at 208, a new orchestral dynamic level is needed at 208. WGV assumes V wanted Coro particularly quiet, and suggests [p] for the orchestra.

208, 212 Anna, Ism, Zac A: "su figli," while MI⁴²= "sui figli" / WGV supplies the apostrophe missing in V's truncation.

210 Fen, Zac A: Their declamation, though different from that of Anna and Ism, is absolutely clear. As Fen has a separate text from the others, hers offers no difficulty; perhaps V differentiated Zac from Anna and Ism to reinforce Fen, with whom Zac sings at the lower octave.

213 Anna, Fen, Ism A: 7 on the second beat / WGV adds a second 7, as in Zac and VI I (cf. the parallel 209).

215 Zac A: V mistakenly drew two 1 between the first and third beats. WGV deletes one of them.

215-217, 219-221 A: In the vocal parts with an upbeat, V was inconsistent in his notation of the third beat. The figure always begins with 7., but continues either with a or a : the coccurs in all six measures in Anna and Fen, in Zac at 215 and 216, and in Coro D. II at 217 and 221; the coccurs in all six measures in Ism, in Zac at 217 and 219-221, and in Coro D. I, T., and B. at 217 and 221. WGV prefers the , and hence regularizes the figure everywhere to 7.

215, 219 Nab A: At 215, ti e ; at 219, ti e ; at 219, ti e ; at 219, ti e ; at 220, ti e ; at 22

times to β , as V wrote the part at 216 and 220. 218-219, 222-223 Zac A: Originally $= f \beta - a \beta - b$, with slurs over the first two notes / When V substituted the definitive version, he neglected to cancel the slurs (which would now function as ties). WGV deletes them. 221-223 Ism A: V neglected to supply Ism with words from 221 through the downbeat of 223. (Note

that 221 is the first measure on a new page, f. 69.) WGV supplies them from parallel parts and from 217-219. The situation is more complicated, however, because at the third beat of 222, V wrote only , unlike the of the parallel 218. The part could, of course, declaim the text either way. That Anna continues the declamation of 218 at 222, however, suggests that Ism's failure to do so is an error, perhaps occasioned by the omission of the text. WGV alters Ism at 222 to agree with the fully notated version of 218.

223 Nab A: On the second beat V originally beamed together the first two notes of the triplet. Realizing that this would not accommodate the syllables, he modified the notation as in the parallel 224.

245 Zac A: V mistakenly added a prolonging dot after the \downarrow on the second beat. WGV deletes it.

250-254 MI⁴²: The stage direction = "(ferma improvvisamente il pugnale e *libera* Fenena *che si getta* nelle braccia del padre)".

257 A: In the *spartitino*, V originally wrote the tempo designation **Allegro**, then added **Presto**, and finally began a new system on which he wrote simply **Presto**, as in the main score.

269, 271 Nab A: The > are unusually large, and could be construed as ______. WGV prefers the >: V is more commonly lavish with his accents than mean with his diminuendi.

273-274 Abi A: V originally intended Abi to sing a sustained *a*" from the second half of 273 through the whole of 274, but the notes were subsequently erased and no words underlaid.

273-475 Anna A: Across 273-275, V wrote "La parte d'Anna sempre unisono coll'Abigaille colle parole del Coro." In fact, if Anna is to sing with Abi, she must enter before Coro. In any case, V's instruction for her to sing with Coro is contradicted by MI⁴², where she is assigned the same verses as Ism and Fen. WGV prefers Solera's instruction, and considers V's phrase a hastily and inaccurately jotted direction, made when he realized there was no available staff for Anna in the main score. That it is Anna who, in Scene V of Part II, arrives with the converted Fen and asks the Levites to pardon Ism, argues strongly for her not associating with the strophe given to Zac and the Coro in the stretta of this Finale.

280-281 Ism **A**: V carelessly wrote "sul *suo* ciglio"; **WGV** follows **MI**⁴² in substituting "sul *mio* ciglio."

286-287 Ism MI⁴²: "mi accese."

300-307 Zac, Coro MI⁴²: Dalle genti *sii* rejetto, / *Dei* fratelli traditore!" / V consistently wrote "Dalle genti *sei* rejetto / *Di* fratelli traditore!" here and at 396-403. Only at 304 is there evidence of uncertainty: V originally wrote "dei" twice, later substituting "di."

310-316 Zac A: V originally repeated the music of 309 at 310, then continued writing the musical line of 310-315 in the bars that were intended to receive 311-316 (the end of f. 74). Realizing his mistake, he erased

the offending portions and wrote the definitive version. The result is messy but legible.

311 Ism A: Although Solera assigned the same text to Anna, Fen, and Ism, the latter can hardly refer to himself in the verses "Deh non venga maledetto, L'infelice per pietà!" Realizing this, V changed the word to "maledetta," presumably referring to Fen. Although V was inconsistent in making this emendation, it seems wholly reasonable and WGV employs it throughout.

314 Fen, Ism A: The syllable "pie-" falls under the fourth beat; **WGV** shifts it to the third beat, as in the parallel 322.

316-371 Zac, Coro MI⁴²: Although the words "Oh fuggite il maledetto" appear in italics in MI⁴², V does not differentiate them in A. WGV follows his notations, while footnoting the reading of the libretto.

325-337 Fen **A**: Fen's melodic line was originally higher in register. V erased this earlier version, except at the second half of 326, where he merely crossed through the rejected d''.

335-339 Anna A: In the absence of any obvious text (see Note 273-475), WGV follows the structural model of Abi and repeats "pietà."

337 Coro B. A: Though V wrote only a, the context demands $a + c \sharp'$, on the model of 329, etc..

339 Nab A: > on the downbeat / WGV deletes this accent, a unique example on the concluding note of a phrase.

340-347 Anna A: Again, nothing in A gives much assistance in deciding the text Anna should sing here (see Note 273-475). **WGV** anticipates "ah per pietà," found at 348-355.

351 Ism A: g' / Perhaps V was still thinking in soprano clef. WGV corrects the reading to f'.

354 Coro D. A: Though both notes bear >, they are the only examples in the vocal lines at either 346 or 354. WGV consigns them to a footnote.

355 Abi, Anna A: The octave might mean that Abi and Anna, who share a staff, should split forces. In the absence of further evidence, WGV leaves both notes in each part.

358, 362 Anna A: Since Anna has different words (see Note 273-475), she cannot follow Abi exactly. WGV emends the rhythm as in Fen and Ism.

377 Nab A: "vi/i" / WGV follows the "vi/nti" of 263, the reading of MI⁴².

425-426 Zac A: WGV adjusts the rhythm to four , as in all parallel parts.

429 Ism A: $f\sharp'$, an error arising from V's having

copied the pitch from the staff of Fen (in soprano clef) directly above. WGV emends the note to the intended $g\sharp'$.

460-467 Abi A: V originally wrote the text "s'estinguerà, s'estinguerà," which follows logically from what precedes. Subsequently, he decided to conclude at 468-475 with the final verse of the strophe, "Pago l'odio almeno sarà." and he returned to 460-467 to alter the text to "almen sarà, almen sarà." The resulting text sequence between 459 and 460 is patently illogical, but WGV has not wanted to tamper with a passage in which sonic and expressive quality is more significant than verbal logic.

463 Ism A: | | / To further confuse matters, V entered no text for Ism at 462-475. It would be possible to add "si" on the fourth beat of 463, accommodating the words to the music, but Ism would be the only part with this rhythm at 463, even though he shares a common rhythm throughout the phrase (460-467) with Zac and Coro. Given these considerations, WGV substitutes | for Ism at 463. (See also Note 469.)

467-482 A: It is possible to reconstruct the skeleton score of this passage, which is different from the final version. An earlier, erased version of Abi at 468-470 probably belonged to the same layer:



469 Anna, Ism A: The part of Anna is not explicit in A, so that her words must be underlaid to the melodic line of Abi, which she is doubling (see Note 273-475); the part of Ism is explicit, but there are no words in his part at 462-475 (see Note 463). In order for Anna to employ Abi's rhythm at 469, she must be given a syllable at the end of the measure. WGV suggests the obvious "ah." The case of Ism is different. His rhythm at 469 is \$\big| \big| \bi

N. 5. Scena ed Aria Abigaille

1 MI⁴²: This is the only biblical reference that Solera cites correctly. The quotation comes from Jeremiah XXX: 23, in the Italian translation of the Bible by Giovanni Diodati.

47 Abi A: "l'assirio."

52 Abi MI42: "mentr'ei."

76-77 Abi A: The *ossia*, written without annotation on the vacant Timp staff above Abi, is elliptical. As the diatonic ascent to c''' and subsequent two-octave leap would lose its point transposed down an octave (with a concluding one-octave leap), one must assume V intended that a singer who needs to avoid c''' should emphasize her lower register by descending to c' and holding the note throughout 77.

96 Abi A: in the first half of the

measure / WGV emends V's error after the model of the similar 98.

100-101 Abi A: "soffriva dell'altri al duol" / At the repetition of this text at 108-110, V wrote, "soffria dell'altri al duol." WGV alters "soffriva" to "soffria" at 100-101, the reading in MI⁴², and also follows the libretto in correcting "dell'altri" to "degli altri" both times.

102 Abi MI⁴²: "Ah," absent in MI⁴², is V's addition.
105 Abi A: There is no dot under the fermata, and

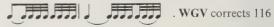
the sign could be mistaken for a slur. That V intended a fermata, however, is evident from the instrumental parts, and WGV supplies the missing dot.

113 Abi pvRI: The melodic line is different in the second half of the measure:



This could reflect a version actually sung by the first Abigaille, Giuseppina Strepponi, during the initial run of performances, or a variant prepared for the singer who took the role at the Teatro alla Scala in Autumn 1842, Teresa De Giuli Borsi. See also Note 117.

116-117 Abi A: The vocal part is erroneously notated in the second half of 116 and the first half of 117:



following the model of 96 and 98 (see also Note 96), and separates the two groups of thirty-second notes at 117 in order to accommodate the text.

117 Abi A: The third and fourth notes from the end = , WGV halves the value of the latter note.

117 Abi pvRI: The cadenza is different:



This could reflect a version actually sung by the first Abigaille, Giuseppina Strepponi, during the initial run of performances, or by Teresa De Giuli Borsi during the Autumn 1842 revival.

123-124 Abi A: "s'avvanza?..."

128 Sac MI42: "agli occhi."

143 A: The tempo marking at the top of the score is not in V's hand, and is thus italicized by WGV.

144-151 Sac, Coro A: The vocal lines were originally different:



The final version is in no doubt.

156 Sac A: | / Finding no other instance

to support it, WGV deletes the second slur.

162 Abi MI42: "Son teco..."

187 Abi A: It is possible to distinguish an earlier, erased version:



190 Abi A: The trill sign stops at the beginning of 190, where the score is particularly busy. This apparently careless notation is contradicted in the repeat (229), where the trill continues to the end of the sustained note. WGV prefers this second version and extends it to 190.

203-204 Abi **A**: On the staff above that of Abi (normally assigned to Timp), V added an *ossia*:



It must have been present before V completed the instrumentation, but was eventually deleted.

207 Coro T. I A: The first note = d', clearly in error. **WGV** alters it to e', as at 211.

207-208 Sac A:

/ In the absence of other vocal models for these

staccati, and considering the self-evidently detached nature of the passage, WGV deletes these few examples. Their extension to parallel passages would create an impression far removed from that of A.

243 Abi A: After the page turn between 242 and 243 (from f. 105 to f. 105°), V forgot to provide a final note for his *ossia* passage. WGV supplies the c''.

246, 250, 256 Abi A: | J. | / Though V did not write three dots, the final sixteenths make his intentions clear.

fers from the parallel passage at 245. Given the slur over the last two notes, WGV considers the placement of "a" at 249 an error and substitutes the reading of 245.

255 Coro T. II A: d' in the second half of the measure / WGV follows the prevailing F major harmony (in which the d' would be the only added sixth), altering the note to c'.

N. 6. Recitativo e Preghiera

1 WGV: The (p) and (Andante) come from pvRI. 26-27 Zac A: "Israello." WGV follows the "Israele" of MI42.

32 Zac A: V apparently wrote "Te" rather than the "Tu" of MI⁴². V's solecism is common in colloquial use; WGV follows the grammatically correct version of MI⁴².

36-37 Zac A: A new page (f. 111) begins at 37, probably explaining why V employed separate in each measure. WGV substitutes a continuous sign.

47 Zac A: In an earlier layer, the part read:



50-51 Zac MI⁴²: "tempio *echeggierà*" / V started to write this at 50, but erased it and superimposed "suonerà."

51-52 Zac A: Although the slur concludes within 51, there is a page turn before 52. WGV has extended the slur into 52, as at the parallel 55-56 (between which no page turn intervenes).

N. 7. Coro di Leviti

Sources

There are two partially autograph sources for N. 7. The first, written on ff. 114-122° (henceforth Source A1), is in E minor; the second, on ff. 147-155° (henceforth Source A2), is in Eb minor. As discussed in the introduction, V originally made a skeleton score of the composition in E minor (A1) and had completed a considerable amount of the orchestration before deciding, presumably for pratical considerations, to transpose the number to Eb minor. To accomplish this, V had a copyist prepare A2 by transposing everything he had already written into Eb minor. The composer himself then completed the orchestration directly on A2. The copyist finally returned to work in A1, transposing the newly orchestrated material into the original key, E minor.

Critical Notes

- 1 MI⁴², A1: According to the stage direction in MI⁴², the Leviti enter from the "porta a destra"; in A, however, V clearly wrote "dalla parte a destra." WGV allows this slight difference to stand.
- 7 Coro A1: There is a prolonging dot after the 7 on the second beat, which WGV deletes. It is absent in A2.
 7-9 Coro MI⁴²: The printed libretto treats the first verse as a question and answer between two parts of the Coro. It also has a different text for the second verse:

I Che si vuol?

- II Chi mai ci chiama, Chi ne invita in dubbio loco?...
- 9 Ism A1: "pontefice" / WGV uses the capitalization of MI42.
- 15 A1: V originally wrote Presto, then added All.º in front of this Presto, without erasing the latter. In A2, on the other hand, the copyist entered V's original Presto, but V added Allo. beneath this marking, again without erasing the original. It seems clear that V intended his original Presto to be superseded, but did he wish the new tempo to read Allegro presto (as might be suggested by A1) or simply Allegro? Because the meaning of the composite term is very uncertain, WGV prefers the later "Allegro." It is interesting, however, that pvRI has "Presto."

17-18 Coro MI42: "v'ha mortale."

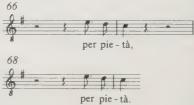
- 18 Coro A1: The second and third notes are beamed together. Although the words "che a" can, of course, be elided, the effect is awkward here. WGV prefers to use two separate , as V himself did in the parallel 60.
- 24 Coro MI⁴²: "come *il* baleno" / V omitted the article in A1, as did the copyist in A2.

27-39 Coro MI42:

Invano al labbro – presta il veleno, Invano al core – vibra il pugnal!

- 33, 71, 75 Coro A1: Jon the downbeat / WGV substitutes Jon, as in the parallel 29, and as in all instrumental parts. The copyist followed A1 faithfully in A2.

 39-109 A1: As mentioned above, V's hand is present only in the vocal parts and a few instrumental indications. Most of the instrumental parts are in the hand of a copyist, who transposed V's autograph orchestration from A2. The primary source for the text of WGV remains A1, but all copyist's entries have been compared with the autograph version of A2. Additions and emendations on the basis of A2 have been added in pointed brackets.
- **41-42** Ism **A1**: "dal anatema" / This text was copied directly into **A2**. **WGV** follows **MI**⁴² in correcting to "dall'anatema."
- 43-44 Ism MI^{42} : "il terror" / WGV follows V's text in A1, "il furor," also copied into A2.
- **45-51** Ism **A1**: "o la morte," also copied into **A2** / **WGV** substitutes "oh la morte," as in **MI**⁴², a spelling used by V himself at 81-94.
- 53 Coro MI⁴²: "Sei" does not appear in the printed libretto.
- 54 Coro A1: There are staccati on the four \(\) / WGV substitutes accents, following Coro at 53. Recall that a page turn intervenes between 53 and 54. The copyist in A2 provided no articulation for Coro at 53-54.
- 56 Ism MI⁴²: The "ah" is not present in the printed libretto.
- **66-69** Ism **A1**: V originally wrote two further interjections for Ism:



but crossed them out before the part was copied into A2.

78, 80 Coro A1: on the fourth beat / WGV substitutes from the otherwise parallel 36 and 38. The music notated at 78 and 80 will not accommodate the text.

92-93 Ism A1: V neglected to write the word "morte," a simple oversight already corrected by the copyist of A2. 109-110 Anna MI⁴²: "*Deh* fratelli."

111-115 Anna A1: There existed an earlier version of Anna's recitative, over which the definitive version was superimposed:



113-114 MI⁴²: "Oh che narri!.." is assigned also to Ism, but neither in A1 nor A2 does V join Ism to Coro B.

N. 8. Finale Seconda Parte

1 A: The name "Zacc[aria]" in the margin, his clef and key signature, as well as his music and text in this measure alone, are notated with a different, thicker pen, probably not by V. Further up the page, on the staff of Cor I, II, yet another hand wrote a large "-tà," evidently a reminder that Zac's final syllable needed to be inserted. Both interventions demonstrate that, in spite of their apparent continuity, NN. 7 and 8 were composed separately, and that their linking, though inevitable, took place after each piece had been fully worked out.

3-7 A: The words "Ma qual sorge tumulto! / Oh Ciel! che fia!" do not appear in MI42.

9-10 Abd A: The part originally read:



The new words, "Donna regal!" (which, unlike the original ones, appear in MI⁴²), are added above the staff, in a thicker pen, and may not be autograph. As the musical changes seem authentically Verdian, WGV accepts the revision, already present in pvRI.

12-14 Abd MI⁴²: The text is slightly different: infausto grido

Sorge che annuncia del mio re la morte!

24-25 Fen MI42: "A che più tardo?.."

28-29 Fen A: In the *endecasillabo* verse of MI⁴², "Io qui star non mi deggio... in mezzo agli empi," there are textual elisions between "-gio... in," "zoa-," and "gli em-." In his setting, V ignored the first altogether. The placement of the syllables under the notes in the latter part of the verse suggests that V wanted "-zo a-" elided but not "gli em-." Although it might seem more normal to declaim:

WGV follows the unequivocal notation of A.

30 Fen A: The final note is $d\sharp''$, though a later hand has circled the \sharp and written in a question mark. WGV removes the \sharp : whatever V's intention may have been at the skeleton-score stage, the orchestral context demands d''.

46 MI⁴²: The scene description in the libretto is slightly different from the stage direction in A: "Nabucodonosor aprendosi co' suoi guerrieri la via in mezzo allo scompiglio, si getta fra Abigaille e Fenena; prende la corona e postasela in fronte dice ad Abigaille."

49-64 A: The fully orchestrated page that follows the definitive 48 (f. 126^v) presents a version of the music leading to "S'appressan gl'istanti" in its original key, B major, rather than the definitive one, Bb major.

75 Nab A: The rest is incorrectly drawn as 7.: WGV substitutes the correct 7., as in 74.

84 Nab A: The last note in the measure seems rather confused, as if V may originally have written $e \downarrow$, then altered it to f. (See also Note 106.)

84-85 Nab A: V originally wrote "apprestano un giorno" underneath the phrase that straddles these measures, then crossed it out and substituted the definitive text.

85 Abi A: The 4 after the first two was a later addition, turning the duple rhythm of Nab's original statement into a triplet. The modification, followed by V throughout the rest of the piece, is needed because of the added accompanying voices. This helps explain why a slur covers these notes at 85, the only example in this section: V may have intended it as a sign of grouping for the triplet. In the absence of other models, WGV deletes it.

88-89 Nab A: An earlier version of this passage read:



V firmly scratched it out and supplied rests.

95-97 Abi, Ism, Nab A: Although the vocal upbeats in this phrase were notated y. At previous occurrences (73-75 and 84-86), V began writing | , , as the voices accumulate in the canon, employing this rhythm whenever a voice enters at the beginning of a measure (Nab at 96-97, Abi and Ism at 107-108 and 118-119). His consistency suggests he heard the entire passage this way. That he was careless in his notation of other parts results from the confusion inherent in the presence of so many eighth rests in the middle of these measures. On musical grounds, the increase in the number of voices, hence in the complexity of the texture, justifies a more uniform rhythmic activity among the voices. A similar shift to a more uniform rhythm (changing a duplet to a triplet) is described in Note 85. In 95-97, 106-108, and 117-119 WGV leaves the first entrance in the imitative passage with an implicit quadruple division, but transforms subsequent entries into a triple subdivision (i.e., sextuplets). All added rests are printed in smaller notation and resulting triplets are marked "[3]."

correction at 84 (see Note), the motivic context makes the *g* extremely unlikely, and WGV substitutes *f*. This decision is also supported by the vocal parts at 95 and 117.

109-110 Abi, Fen, Ism, Nab A: V at 109 wrote "di lutto e d'or-"; the copyist at 110 (see Note 110-117), concluded "-ror." WGV substitutes the text found in MI⁴², and elsewhere in A, "di lutto e squallor." At 76 V nearly made the same mistake, but caught himself in time and crossed out the beginning of "d'orror."

110-117 Abi, Fen, Ism, Nab A: These solo parts are in a copyist's hand, with text entered only in the staff of Abi. (The upbeats to 118 for Fen and Nab, however, are autograph.) The parts are necessary for the musical continuity, and WGV accepts the copyist's version, assuming it had V's authorization. It is possible that V instructed the copyist to transpose these parts down a half tone from the original B major version. Even though 110 is the first measure on f. 131°, it seems unlikely that the absence of autograph parts here could be attributed to an oversight.

Several slurs in Abi function as triplet groupings: 110 (third beat), 114 (third beat), 115 (second and third beats). No similar models occur in autograph sections of this number, and WGV sees no reason to retain them here.

110 Abi, Fen, Ism A: Abi = bb', Fen = bb, Ism = d on the downbeat / These notes are unlikely resolutions of the melodic lines at 109. That 110 is the first measure on a verso and that the parts are not in V's hand encourage WGV to consider them simple errors, and to replace them with d', bb', and bb, respectively.

119 Abi, Ism A: The final beat has too many notes and rests:

121-127 A: These final measures of the Andantino caused V enormous trouble, traces of which are still apparent in the autograph. In the B major version, of which the *spartitino* alone remains, only two measures on the tonic followed 120:



When V prepared the full score of the Bb major version, he originally planned a conclusion of four measures on the tonic, and entered this version in all vocal parts, but in none of the instrumental parts. Although almost completely obliterated in the final revision of the passage, enough traces remain to make possible a hypothetical reconstruction of this first Bb major version (see example below).

When V decided to expand the final section further, to seven measures (a repeated two-measure cadential phrase, followed by three measures on the tonic), he split in two each of the first three measures of his original Bb major version, scratched away most of this version, and squeezed new vocal lines and



instrumental parts into the restricted space available. He preserved some elements of the original draft, but often left the manuscript in an ambiguous state or with signs poorly aligned and matched. Sorting out the layers with precision is not always possible. The following Notes attempt to assess the various problems posed by these final seven measures.

121-124 Abi A: A large — above Abi was intended for the original Bb major version. It makes little sense in the revised version where, after first ascending, the vocal line descends. As V did not extend this sign to any other part at 121-124, but drew instead many smaller — in vocal and instrumental parts at the added 125, WGV considers the single — at 121-124 an unintentional remnant of the first version, and consigns it to a footnote.

125-126 A: Because many dynamic markings in the vocal parts belong to the earlier version, the ff appear to be placed randomly at 125 or 126. WGV regularizes them on the downbeat of 126, following the instrumental parts, which belong only to the final version.

125-126 Abi A: In his original version, V wrote the syllable "-lor" under the bb". When he modified the ending, adding 125, he rewrote the final syllable under the downbeat of 125, and partially smudged the original "-lor" at 126. This suggests that the upward arpeggiation should not bear additional text, the interpretation **WGV** accepts. It would be possible, however, to add "di squallor" at 125-126.

126-127 Fen A: In the original version, Fen had f''; in the final version, V substituted d''. Although his erasure is only partial, the physical placement of the notes is evidence of his intention.

126-127 Coro A: In the original version, all choral parts leaped an octave from a lower tonic note to an upper one at the equivalent of 126, which they held for two measures (as in the final version). When V revised these measures, he anticipated the change of octave at 123. With no octave leap leading into 126, V was free to present a fuller chord in the choral parts at 126-127, and he took advantage of this possibility in Coro D. and T. Nonetheless, his notation is ambiguous. In Coro D., he added d'' to the earlier bb' in both measures, but neglected to provide a tie. In Coro T., he added d' + f'to the earlier bb in 126, with two ties leading into 127, but forgot to write the extra notes at 127. Because the compositional history suggests that these notes belong only to the final version, WGV supplies the missing tie to Coro D. and the missing notes to Coro T.

128 WGV: The Allegro printed in roman beneath the score is actually taken from the *spartitino*. In the main body of **A** there is only a single **Allegro**, above the score.

137-142 A: The original version of these measures, 137a-142a (part of the music V replaced when he transposed "S'appressan gl'istanti" from B major to Bb major), is preserved in A, on f. 134.

143 Nab A: The last measure on the added f. 133°, which contains the revised transition from the new key of "S'appressan gl'istanti" (Bb major) to the continuation of the Finale, reads as follows:



Presumably V intended this measure to replace two measures of the original version (equivalent to 143-144 of the final version). The change from c' to db' would thus have occurred only at 145. The composer must have changed his mind quickly, for he crossed out this measure and left intact 143-144 from the original version, which therefore belong also to the final version.

148-149 MI⁴²: "Ahi stolto!..." is also assigned to Anna. Although there is no written part for her, or indeed in her vocal range, it would not be amiss for Anna to join the Leviti at the upper octave.

149 Coro B. A: \int on the second beat / WGV substitutes $\int_{\gamma} \gamma$, following Zac at 149, as well as Fen and Sac at 148.

149-150 Abd, Coro T. MI⁴²: The words "Nabucco viva!" are assigned to Abd, but V indicated "Guerrieri." It would certainly be appropriate for Abd to join the Guerrieri.

157 Zac A: 7. on the fourth beat / The final eighth note may originally have been a sixteenth. WGV preserves the value of the note, deleting the prolonging dot from the eighth rest.

160, 164 Zac A: on the third and fourth beats / In view of the declamation at 162, WGV adds a second prolonging dot.

165 Nab A: $\mbox{\hselectfont λ}$ on the first two beats / WGV substitutes $\mbox{\hselectfont $-$}$.

167-169 Nab MI42:

O fidi,

A' piedi miei si guidi,

174 Nab MI42: "O iniqua,"

176 Fen MI42: "No!... sono Ebrea!"

181-182 A: Another hand added a redundant but impressive-looking "Scoppia il fulmine" four staves from the bottom.

182 Nab A: V left no notes or rests in this measure. Although **pvRI** and subsequent printed sources add an *eb* (), the exceptional nature of the dramatic situation makes a "parlato" appropriate.

182-192 MI⁴²: The stage direction is slightly different: "rumoreggia il tuono, un fulmine scoppia sulla corona del Re. Nabucodonosor atterrito sente strapparsi la corona da una forza soprannaturale; la follia appare in tutti i suoi lineamenti. A tanto scompiglio succede tosto un profondo silenzio."

190 A: At an early stage of composition, V intended to begin the choral parts at 190. The resolution of Vc, found in 191 in the final version, was originally written at 190. In this same measure V continued immediately

with Coro B. He wrote the equivalent (in the final version) of 192 through the downbeat of 194, then erased it, providing extra measures of $E \triangleright$ in Vc and $e \triangleright$ in Timp before the chorus enters.

192 A: V labeled only the top three staves, for Abi, Fen, and Ism. A copyist later added the names of characters before each staff. He made no provision for Zac, however, even though MI⁴² specifies that these words are sung by "Tutti." WGV suggests that Zac join the Bassi (Leviti).

192 Vocal parts MI42: "O come."

214 A: Adagio in the spartitino / WGV prefers and extends Andante, found in the main score above VI I. There is, after all, no part at 215-218 in the spartitino. It is noteworthy, however, that V also marked the vocal line Adagio. Given the different expressive connotation of the term, WGV allows the "contradiction" to stand. (See also Note 233.)

214 Nab MI42: "O mia figlia!..."

217 Nab A: This measure originally read:



224-226 Nab A: In an earlier version, the line read:



Printed scores from **pvRI** onward adopt at 225-226 a reading halfway between this earlier version and the definitive one:



226 Nab A: The "ah" is not in MI42.

233 A: Adagio in the *spartitino* / In the main score, V wrote Andante above VI I and above Cb (Vc = Cb). A copyist repeated the indication under Cb. As at 214 (see Note), WGV accepts and extends this Andante, while preserving Adagio in the vocal part at 235.

233 Nab A, MI42: There is no punctuation after the

"Ah"; WGV suggests "..." in 233 alone, which capture the mood of the phrase better than a simple comma.

236 Nab MI⁴²: "sul ciglio."

239, 242 Nab A: There is an "!" at 242, but no punctuation at 239. WGV prefers the "?" of MI⁴².

243-253 A: V made substantial alterations to the conclusion of the Finale. These changes do not affect the legibility of the final version.

N. 9. Introduzione Parte Terza

1 MI⁴²: Solera's biblical reference, to "Gerem. LI," is incorrect. The quotation actually comes from Jeremiah L:39, in the Italian translation of the Bible by Giovanni Diodati. WGV supplies the correct reference.

5-6 Banda (Treble) A: There are \sharp on the e' on the fourth beat of 5 and second beat of 6. These signs clash with the parallel passage at 13-14, as well as with the original presentation of the march in N. 4. At 13, in fact, V originally wrote a \sharp for the e' on the fourth beat, then erased it. WGV accepts the reading at 13-14, and thus deletes the \sharp at 5-6.

40-112 Coro **A**: The text is written only in the uppermost part (Donne). **WGV** extends it to all three parts.

48-49 Coro D. A: "ovumque" / WGV corrects V's spelling to "ovumque," as in MI42.

56-112 Coro **A**: V originally set to music the following earlier version of the text:

Or di pace fra i contenti, Qual ruscel fra l'erbe e i fior, Scorrerà suoi dì contenti Fra le gioje e fra gli amor.

At 60-63 V attempted to alter the second verse, perhaps to eliminate the faintly silly Metastasian simile, writing his partially illegible solution immediately beneath the original; the final two words were certainly "del valor." Later still, another hand crossed out V's correction and wrote over the top of the staff "degno premio del valor." The text in MI⁴² is slightly different: "Giusto premio del valor." WGV accepts the corrected reading of A.

At 66-71 V continued to alter the text, changing the original third and fourth verses to agree with MI⁴²:

Scorrerà suoi dì ridenti Nella gioja e nell'amor.

Perhaps the composer sought to eliminate the awkward repetition of "contenti" in the first and third original verses. After 71, however, V made no further effort to alter the text, which continues with the original version quoted above. WGV believes V intended to alter the text throughout, and therefore continues to adopt the revised text.

72-106 A: From 72 through 86, V wrote in full only Coro, VI I, and Cb (Vc = Cb); he also wrote Fl at 77-82 (beginning on the third beat of 77), Ott at 81-86 (beginning on the third beat of 81), and VI II at 81-82. For the other parts he wrote an instruction (slanting upward from Cor I, II) sending the copyist back to N. 4 (where the equivalent measures are 103-117).

The composer originally intended to continue with a new cadential section, consisting of a repeated eight-measure phrase (an earlier version of what ultimately became 87-102): this would have mirrored the structure of N. 4, 118-133, but with different music. V wrote a skeleton score of these sixteen measures, drafting the entire part in Vl I (with the second eight measures identical to the first) and writing the first eight measures in Coro and Cb:





Subsequently, he erased this version, revising Coro and Cb at 87-94 and writing the parts in their definitive version at 95-102. He did not supply any music to replace the erased part in VI I. This revised version is basically equivalent to N. 4, 118-133.

Finally, at 103-106, he wrote the parts of Coro, VI I, and Cb (Vc = Cb), with the music the same as N. 4, 134-137. The outcome of this compositional activity was to render N. 9, 72-106 essentially identical to N. 4, 103-137.

At this point, a copyist filled in the missing instrumental parts from N. 4 (signs in both N. 9 and in N. 4 indicate the extent of the quotation). For those parts not written out by V in N. 9, WGV returns to the composer's original version of these measures in N. 4, rather than to the copyist's rendering of them. The following Notes treat discrepancies between V's autograph parts in N. 9 and the full autograph version of this music in N. 4.

82-85 Coro A: The choral parts in A are different from those given in WGV (see example below).

(The words belong to the uncorrected original text – see Note 56-112.) In several instances, the notes in this autograph reading clash with the orchestral parts. On the second beat of 82, WGV concocts its own

solution by changing Coro slightly; in 83 through the first half of 85, WGV adopts the changed Coro parts of pvRI. Several erasures in VI I and Cb suggest that V may at one time have considered a version slightly different from N. 4, but changed his mind without completely correcting the original notation.

88, 90, 96, 98 A: V wrote > on the third and fourth beats in Cb (Vc = Cb), the only instrumental part in his hand, at 88, 90, and 98; he also included them in Coro D. at 96 and 98. Despite the lack of similar accents in the parallel measures of N. 4, V clearly heard these notes as accented. WGV therefore extends these accents to the entire orchestra, even though they are lacking in N. 4.

N. 10. Scena e Duetto [Abigaille e Nabucco]

- 1 A: In the half-measure upbeat, V notated only Sac. A copyist added 1 for each instrumental line. WGV substitutes half-measure rests.
- 6 Sac A: "Di Giuda l'empi figli" / WGV substitutes the grammatically correct reading, "gli empi," from MI^{42} .



18 MI⁴²: "e dimesse vesti" in the stage direction. 23-25 MI42:

NAB. Ov'è Nabucco?

ABI.

Deh! Signor, mi segui.

26 Nab A: There is a superfluous prolonging dot after the first , which WGV deletes.

35 Nab MI42: "Debil sono."

41-43 MI42: The final word of the stage direction is "salire." WGV follows V's "salirvi."

46-47 Abi MI42: "Escite."

47-48 Abi A: V presented Abi with two possibilities: to cadence on g' or on g''. To clarify the notation, WGV adds separate stems for each part. pvRI and later scores mix the versions, producing an unlikely swooping amalgam:



50, 52 WGV: The dynamic levels added here are taken from pvRI.

59 Abi A: in the second half of the measure / Bearing in mind the declamation at 57-58, WGV halves the last note.

63, 68 Nab A: Although V apparently wrote "?" it must be taken to be a carelessly written "!" as in MI42. The question mark makes no sense in this context.

69-70 WGV: The dynamic levels added here are taken from pvRI.

76 Abi A: / The error arose because V originally drafted the first three notes at half their final values. Doubling them, he forgot to halve the final rest.

86-87 Abi A: V originally planned to repeat the text "al voto." To this end, the rhythm of 86 was bb', The last eighth note was bb', to the word "al." The first syllable of 87 was "vo-". V erased the note and syllable at 86 and changed the syllable at 87, but neglected to emend the rests at the end of 86. WGV employs - for the second half of

88 Abi A: Perhaps as a result of this confusion (see Note 86-87), V forgot to supply the final "tu!" A copyist added the word.

93 Abi MI⁴²: "Soscrivi!" / Although there is much to be said for the punctuation of MI⁴², A clearly shows "?", and WGV accepts this perfectly possible sign.

94 Nab MI⁴²: "(M'ange un pensier!)."

96 Abi A: | | | / It might be possible to emend this reading as | | , but V appears originally to have begun the measure with , then filled it in to form], without correcting the subsequent rest. WGV doubles the value of the rest.

98-108 Abi, Nab A: It is possible to reconstruct an earlier version, in which the part of Abi remains in a lower register:



There is no difficulty distinguishing this from the definitive version, although the sometimes unerased flat signs give the score a confusing appearance.

102-103 Abi MI42: "vostro Dio!.."

113-115 MI⁴²: The stage direction reads: "(pone *l'anello reale intorno la carta, e la riconsegna* ad Abigaille)."

125 Nab MI42: The stage direction reads: "(in atto di fermarla)."

128 Abi MI⁴²: "Un'altra figlia..."

130-132 Nab MI42: "O schiava."

135-136 MI⁴²: The stage direction reads: "la servile condizione d'Abigaille."

151-193 Abi, Nab WGV: The parentheses around the two strophes (denoting they are "asides") are derived from MI^{42} .

152 Nab A: | ... | / WGV deletes the second prolonging dot, following the model of Nab at 156.

161-193 Nab MI⁴²: "I'ombra son io del re" / V modified this to "I'ombra tu sei del re" for most of the Andante, except at 188-193, where he briefly returned to the text of MI⁴². Although this shift in text could be considered a mere lapse in concentration, it cannot be excluded that here, near the climax of the cadential section, V sought to intensify the expression by having Nab, who thus far refers to himself from without, adopt the first person. Because the change in text is handled in a way that has structural significance and can be justified dramatically, WGV accepts the variant at 188-193.

166 Abi MI⁴²: "O dell'ambita gloria."

168 Abi A: An earlier version of the first four notes reads:



173-177 Abi MI42:

Cadranno regi e popoli Di vile schiava al piè.)

176 Abi A: f on the fourth beat / WGV corrects the rhythmic deficiency by doubling the value of the f on g''.

177 WGV: The dynamic level for the accompaniment is taken from pvRI.

178-179 Nab, Cb (Vc = Cb) A: An earlier version read as follows:



The subsequent revisions have left the appearance of Nab rather confusing. In particular, the third note of the triplet on the second beat appears to be , nonetheless, V's final intention seems reasonably clear.

181 Abi A: V began to reproduce the vocal line of 179. After notating half the measure, he erased this version and supplied the definitive one. Although the appearance of the score is somewhat ambiguous, the doubling instrumental parts support the reading of WGV, also found in pvRI.

185 Nab A: V originally repeated on the fourth beat (without text) the music he had written on the third. He subsequently provided the \$\frac{1}{2}\$ of the definitive version.

190 Abi A: Join on the final beat / This contradicts the triplets (which are explicitly marked "3") in Fl, Cl, and Vl I. WGV follows the latter, judging them to be the later version.

195-202 WGV: In the absence of a dynamic level in A, WGV adopts (f) from pvRI.

197-198 Nab MI42: "Oh qual suon!.."

213 Abi A: V began to write "col," perhaps thinking of "col canto." Realizing the expression was inappropriate, he transformed it into "a piacere." The resulting words almost appear to be "col piacere," but this is most unlikely. WGV uses "a piacere."

233-234, 263-264 Nab A: "assiria."

234 Nab A: The notation is unclear on the third beat: in particular, there appear to be three ornamental notes, f, g, and a[b]. This anticipation of the a[b] before the fourth beat seems dubious, and it does not recur in the repetition of this passage at 264. Considering it a lapse, WGV omits it at 234.

241 Abi A: "mova" / WGV corrects the spelling to "move," as in MI⁴².

241, 245 Abi, VI I A: There are no slashes through the beams of the ornamental notes to the third beat. WGV adds them, as in the wind parts. The problem recurs in the vocal line at 271 and 274.

248 Abi A: V originally planned the declamation as:

- - ce nel [ser-]

text.

260-262 Nab A: "Te signora, te regina." WGV reverses the nouns, following the parallel passage at 230-232 and MI⁴².

263 Nab A: The notes of the triplet on the fourth beat are beamed together; WGV separates the final note, as at 233, to accommodate the text.

269, 273 Abi A: V originally wrote on the first two beats, but later inserted 7. at the start of the second beat.

276 Nab MI42: "Deh la figlia."

N. 11. Coro e Profezia

1 A: In addition to V's explicit p in Fg at 2, another hand, in pencil, wrote p on the Ott staff in 1. Despite the accents in the string parts, WGV suggests a dynamic of [p]. There is no dynamic level in pvRI.

13-14 Coro D MI⁴²: "sull'al*i* dorate" / V's "sull'al*a* dorate" differs from MI⁴², pvRI, and 150 years of accumulated tradition. But the plural "ale" is a frequent poetic equivalent of the common "ali." There are many examples of the former, from Parini, Monti, Leopardi, Pascoli, and others. Furthermore, in N. 1 of *Nabucco* (m. 75), the Vergini sing "Gran Nume, che voli sull'*ale* dei venti." WGV respects V's autograph reading, despite the fact that V himself in an arrangement of this piece for unaccompanied chorus (see Appendix 3) employed "ali."

14, 18, 26 Coro D. A: V's slurs originally began on the downbeat and covered only the triplet; later, he extended them through the second beat, the model adopted by WGV.

17 Coro MI42: "olezzano libere e molli."

24 Coro B. A: On the fourth beat, V altered > to A, suggesting that, on this occasion, he heard a clear distinction between the signs (but see Note 40, Coro T.).

27 Coro B. A: The first slur covers the first five notes; WGV restricts it to the first beat, following Coro D. here and Coro T. at the parallel 19.

28 Coro A: V originally planned an F# major chord on the upbeat, rather then the octave c #' + c #''.

29, 30, 33 Coro T. A: There are three staccati on the notes of the triplet on the fourth beats of 29 and 33 and the second beat of 30. WGV substitutes >, as in Coro D. throughout the passage and Coro T. at 34.

35 Coro D. III A: h on the fourth beat / WGV substitutes a 7 for the prolonging dot, as in Coro B.

38 Coro D. A: Three slurs connect the notes on the first beat with the single $c \sharp'$ on the third. WGV deletes

the slur in D. III, which, functioning as a tie, would make it impossible for D. III to sing the text. There is no similar mark in the parallel Coro B.

40 Coro A: "oh t'ispiri" / WGV corrects this to "o" as in MI⁴². V mistook the conjunction in Solera's verse for a simple interjection. In the choral arrangement (see Appendix 3) the correct word appears.

40 Coro T. A: A on the fourth beat / WGV alters these to >, as V himself did in Coro D. (but see Note 24, Coro B.).

43 Coro D., Cl A: A single slur covers the first five notes in Coro D. and the first six in Cl. WGV substitutes two slurs, one for each beat, as in Coro T., Ob, Fg, Tr, Vc and previous statements.

52 A: The title "Profezia" is written above VI I, though not in V's hand. It marks the point where pvRI divides this single composition into two numbers.

52 Zac A: "femine," a simple misspelling.

68 Zac A: V originally beamed the notes of the triplet on the fourth beat together, then transformed the last note into a separate in order to accommodate the text.

75-76 Zac MI42: "lione."

77 Zac A: Although secondary sources (including pvRI) omit the # before the final note, it is absolutely clear in A, and WGV respects V's notation.

77 Coro A: "Oh futuro!" is lacking in MI42.

81 Zac A: The f' appears to be a later addition, notated with a thicker pen, larger than the surrounding notes, and drawn with an upward stem.

81 Zac pvRI: The first edition adds a b to the g, last note of the measure. There is no trace of such an accidental in A.

83 Zac pvRI: During the engraving of the first edition (or perhaps for a later issue), the accidental in front of the first f was changed from b to b, presumably affecting also the last note in the measure. WGV follows A: its fb functions well also at the end of the measure.

91-92 Zac MI⁴²: "ove surse l'altera."

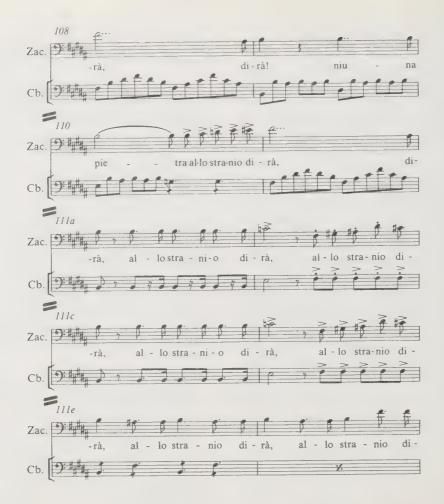
92 Zac A: In an earlier version, this measure read:



V made the same correction at 95 in Coro B.

106-112 A: The skeleton score of an earlier version for Zac and Cb can be reconstructed:





To prepare the final version, V made corrections directly on these staves at 106-111; he then crossed out five measures (111a-111e in the example) and transformed the final measure of this earlier layer into his definitive 112. The earlier version does not interfere with the final one except in Zac at 106 and 109: when changing the note on the third beat from ... to ..., V neglected to erase the second prolonging dot. 108 Zac A: The "ah" is not in MI42.

N. 12. Scena ed Aria di Nabucco

1 MI⁴²: Solera's biblical reference, to "Gerem. XLVIII," is incorrect. The quotation actually comes from Jeremiah L:2, in the Italian translation of the Bible by Giovanni Diodati. WGV supplies the correct reference.

1 A: The fermatas fall randomly on either of the rests or between them. WGV aligns the fermatas with the dotted eighth rest.

35-37 WGV: The added dynamics, which correspond to the natural tendencies of the music, are derived from pvRI.

43 A: "vegliandosi" / The correct word, "svegliandosi," is found in MI⁴².

45-46 Nab MI⁴²: "non scorreva anelando."

50 Nab A: The measure originally read:



53-57 Nab MI⁴²:

Or ecco,

Ecco il grido di guerra!.. Oh la mia spada!.. Il mio destrier, che a le battaglie anela Come fanciulla a danze!

O prodi miei!...

66 A: A different hand added the words "Allegro moderato assai" above Banda; WGV omits the indication, allowing V's "Marcia funebre" to speak for itself. Yet another hand is responsible for the new key signature at 66, although V may have added the flats in Banda.

71 Nab MI⁴²: The stage direction "s'affaccia alla *loggia*" is placed here, rather than at 75, where V wrote "s'affaccia alla *finestra*." V's placement does have a logic of its own, however, and WGV respects it.

74 Nab MI42: "tra le file."

82 A: V wrote "Voci di dentro"; WGV substitutes "Coro di dentro" as at 65. MI42 has "Voci al di fuor," and puts in parentheses the text "Fenena a morte."

85 WGV: The self-evident dynamic level is derived from pvRI.

85-88 MI42: Eschewing "tuoni e lampi," the stage direction reads: "il volto di Nabucodonosor" prende una nuova espressione, corre alle porte, e, trovatele chiuse, grida."

99, 101 WGV: The (p) come from pvRI.

104 Fl A: After the chromatic descending scale, V became extremely parsimonious with his accidentals, Furthermore, the latter indication appears to have been crossed out in A. Though we cannot guess why this was done, or who was responsible for it, the ending of the flute cadenza (with the resulting simple repetition of the interval d''' - e'') would be significantly poorer for the absence of this flat.

WGV adds in parentheses two further accidentals from pvRI, the \flat before the b'' and the \flat before the last d''' mentioned above (both are present in nearly every contemporary secondary source, as well as modern ones), and adds the other necessary accidentals in square brackets. The most problematic accidental in the passage is the abla before the first d''. The effectiveness of the final db", however, would be significantly weakened were this d'' already to be inflected with a \flat . Among manuscript sources, B-Ba and I-Nc³ have all these accidentals, except for the self-evident h before the g''.

105 WGV: The (p) here and throughout the first part of the Largo come from pvRI.

109-110 Nab MI42: "l'ara, il tempio."

112-113 Nab MI42: "sacro."

120 Nab A: As there are two possible elisions, the declamation of the last three notes is in some doubt. Though a possible rendering would be "e i/mie-/i," WGV prefers "e/i/miei," both because it accords with V's underlay and because V treats "miei" as a single syllable in the following measure.

126-127 Nab A: The "ah" is not in MI⁴².

128 Nab A: on the last beat / WGV changes

the final h to h, following Fl, Cl, and Vl I.

129 Nab A: h on the last two beats / WGV

beams the first two notes together, in order to accommodate the text.

132-133 A: V marked no accidentals at 133. Later vocal scores (though not pvRI), presumably disturbed by the cross-relation between Nab's ab at the end of 132 and the orchestral F major chord at the downbeat of 133, flattened all the a of 133. WGV prefers to follow A, adding clarificatory h in square brackets.

147 Abd MI42: "Perché s'insulti alla tua mente offesa?" / V began writing "s'insulti," then crossed out the "s" and transformed the phrase into "Perché insulti ognun alla tua mente offesa!" WGV uses V's revised version, but continues to employ the more dramatically plausible "?" of MI42.

148-149 WGV: The added dynamics are derived from pvRI.

150 Nab MI⁴²: "Che parli tu?..." / WGV allows V's equally acceptable "!" to stand.

154 Abd MI⁴²: "Per acquistare il soglio."

156 Nab A: | , A. A. | / WGV adds a dot to the eighth rest, and deletes one from the penulti-

171-172 Abd e Coro A: "locuste al suol!"

176 Nab A: The final note carries a staccato. In the absence of corroborative marks in parallel passages (the final note of Nab in 177, for example), WGV deletes this staccato.

176 WGV: The (p) comes from pvRI.

180 Nab, Fl A: V originally wrote

| J. J. | in Nab and | J. J. | in Fl.

When he decided to alter the rhythm, he corrected the vocal figuration in Nab and added a second & between the final | and the original | ; WGV substitutes a - for the two \ the result from this manipulation. In Fl, V neglected to erase the slur and second dot; WGV omits them, following Ob and Cl.

186-188 Nab MI⁴²: "Gli empi cadranno al suol."

190 Nab A: The vocal line underwent considerable revision in the first part of the measure, leaving a confused residue. WGV follows the logical solution written by a copyist on the staff above.

191 Nab A: The notes of the final triplet are beamed together; in order to accommodate the text, WGV separates the final note.

204 Nab A: The "ah" is not in MI⁴².

205 Nab A: The vocal line went through more than one layer in the second half of the measure. In its present state, the part must be read as in WGV, but it is worth noting the interpretation of pvRI:



205-206 A: 205 is the last measure on f. 217. It is followed, on f. 217^v, by six measures in skeleton score (Nab, Coro, Vl I, and Cb), which contain the beginning of a reprise of the march associated with Nabucco and his forces. This skeleton score is heavily crossed out. The next folio, f. 218, did not originally follow from f. 217^v: there was clearly additional music between these pages. Instead, f. 218 begins with the last six measures of what was probably an eightmeasure cadential phrase for Coro and Nab (perhaps even the second statement of such a cadential phrase). This skeleton score, also heavily crossed out, includes parts for Nab, Coro, and Cb. The last two measures on f. 218 are the definitive 206-207 (with significant changes visible at the beginning of 206 in Nab, Coro, and VI I).

These two fragments suggest that the cabaletta of Nab's aria was originally considerably longer, with a formal transitional section (based on the march), a possible reprise of the main theme, and an eight-measure cadential phrase (perhaps repeated). The use of the march as a transitional section, of course, would explain its reappearance as an orchestral postlude to the aria (216-224), a structural design common in Italian opera by the time of Rossini.

206 Nab, Coro A: "Andiam" (Nab) and "Vieni" (Coro) are not in MI⁴².

207-213 Nab, Coro A: There are several rhythmic inconsistencies in this section. Although the prevalent rhythm is by far \downarrow . \downarrow , V made many careless errors: at 207, third and fourth beats, Nab = \downarrow . \downarrow ; at 208, first and second beats, Coro T. = \downarrow . \downarrow and Coro B. = \downarrow . \downarrow ; at 209, third and fourth beats, Coro T. and B. = \downarrow . \downarrow ; at 212, first and second beats, Coro B. = \downarrow . \downarrow ; at 213, Nab = \downarrow . \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow , and, on the third and fourth beats, Coro T. = \downarrow . \downarrow and Coro B. = \downarrow . \downarrow \downarrow . In all cases, WGV substitutes \downarrow . \downarrow , judging this to be V's most likely intention.

N. 13. Finale Ultimo

1 MI⁴²: The scene is set in the "Orti pensili come nella parte *seconda*"; WGV corrects to "parte *terza*" the evident error of MI⁴².

16-30 MI42: The second part of the stage direction reads differently in the original libretto: "Una musica cupa e lugubre annuncia l'arrivo di Fenena e degli Ebrei condannati a morte; giunta Fenena nel mezzo della scena si ferma e s'inginocchia davanti a Zaccaria."

56 Fen A: In an earlier version, the first two notes of this measure were reversed. There is the hint of a slur, clearly belonging to the original version, connecting the first three notes. In the changed musical context, WGV does not feel justified in preserving this slur.

57 Fen A: | J J | / WGV corrects the rhythmic deficiency by adding a prolonging dot to the first note.

58 Fen A: The measure has been smudged, and there is consequently no dot under the sign covering the first three notes (which would therefore have to be read as a slur). Given the fermatas in all instrumental parts, however, WGV supplies the missing dot.

61 Fen A: Originally, the first two notes read: | When V converted the first note into an eighth, he neglected to cancel one of the prolonging dots. WGV makes the emendation.

64 Fen A: The second note has no prolonging dot. WGV supplies one.

66-67 Fen A: V originally planned a phrase structurally parallel to 63-66. It went through at least two layers, the second of which was completely orchestrated, before he decided to reduce the phrase by a measure, as in the definitive version. Although there remain some uncertainties in interpreting the vocal lines of these early versions, the following example presents a plausible reconstruction:





First, V wrote the vocal line at 66-66a (part "1" in the example). Since the whole note a'' would form an unlikely ninth of the chord eventually used in the accompaniment on the third beat, we may presume that V revised Fen's part before entering this accompaniment. In the revision of the vocal line, written on the staff directly above the first version (part "2" in the example), V made the arpeggiated figure of 66 identical to that of 63 (with a peak at f'' rather than a''). He then returned to the original staff and completed the phrase (part "3" of the example). Finally, he entered the bass and, ultimately, the orchestration, which pertains to the vocal passages labeled "2" and "3."

Only when he decided to begin the downward scale on the a'' (as in 67 of the definitive version), rather than f'' (as in the example above), did V realize that the harmonies of 66a were incompatible with his melodic impulse. Hence he heavily crossed out this measure and altered the first pitch at 67 to a''. At the same time, he restored the original vocal line at 66 (part "1") by writing it on the staff above his second version. Thus, he arrived at the a'' not at the canceled 66a but at the downbeat of 67. Finally, he added the a'' - g'' to the downward scale, with a peculiar slur apparently covering only the first two or three notes. In this form, however, the slur makes no sense. Faced with the choice of either disregarding or extending it, **WGV** chooses the latter.

76-79 MI⁴²: The stage direction is slightly different: "*Nabucodonosor* accorrendo con *ferro sguainato*, seguito dai guerrieri e da Abdallo."

80 Nab MI42: "Empi, fermate!"

83-84 Nab MI⁴²: "guerrier, struggete."

89 Nab A: The "Ah" is not in MI42.

90 Nab A: Originally V wrote Largo in the vocal part, but later replaced it with a piacere.

94-95 Nab MI⁴²: "tuo *Nume*" / That V wrote "*Nome*" in A is unquestionable, and WGV accepts this reading. It implies that Nab addresses the verses "Sorga al tuo Nome tempio novello..." directly to God, before turning back to the people at "Ei solo è grande". The reading of MI⁴², however, was already accepted by pvRI.

101-102 Nab A: "tirranno."

105 Nab MI42: "al seno..."

122 A: This measure concludes f. 228°. On the following recto, we find three canceled measures in skeleton score:



The rest of this side of the folio is blank; "Immenso Jeovha" begins on its verso. This suggests that "Immenso Jeovha" was originally introduced by different music, of which these three measures are the only trace. Because the physical structure of the manuscript was destroyed in the binding process, it is impossible to determine the extent of this revision from physical evidence. Nor does the fragment of text, "man ti benedi" – written on the fifth staff from the bottom and probably intended for either Nab or Zac – appear in MI⁴².

123-149 A: After V had completed an earlier version of "Immenso Jeovha," several significant changes were made in the poetry. Even of these did not reflect direct censorial intervention (and chronological evi-

dence surrounding the printing of MI42 makes such intervention unlikely), they may have involved selfcensorship. These textual changes necessitated musical changes that affected many details of the composition. Other musical changes were made for purely aesthetic reasons. Despite the vehemence of V's interventions, it is possible to reconstruct this original version, and a complete transcription with commentary is provided in Appendix 1E.

123-149 Anna A: At first, Anna was not part of the ensemble. When V added her part (and he did so already in the earlier version), he assigned her the music originally sung by Fen at 123-124, 127-128, 131-135, and 140-149, while providing another melodic line for

123 Abd A: Although V made no specific provision for him, Abd should certainly sing with Coro

128 Fen A: A slur covers all three notes, but it is probably a remnant of an early version (see Appendix 1E). As it is confirmed nowhere else, WGV deletes it.

129 Sac A: In the original version (see Appendix 1E), Sac participated in the phrase at 129-130. When V erased this part, he neglected to erase its dynamic level, p. All other parts, however, are marked pp.

131-132 A: In the original version (see Appendix 1E), there was a \downarrow on the second beat and an \downarrow on the third, with the dynamic level of p specified before the third beat. When V altered the rhythm, inserting the at the end of the second beat, the new notes were squeezed in wherever they best fit, so that the p now occur either before the h at the end of the second beat or before the h on the third beat. On musical grounds the former is clearly preferable, and WGV adopts this model.

133 A: The "ah" is not in MI⁴².

133-134 Anna, Fen A: The ff are found at the downbeat of 134. WGV moves them to the preceding upbeat, as in Coro D. and B.

134, 147 Anna A: | ... | WGV supplies the missing third dot.

136-143 A: There are good reasons for wishing to integrate into a performance of Nabucco the original version of these measures (see Appendix 1E). Though V's motivations for revising "Immenso Jeovha" involved both musical and textual considerations, the final version of 136-143, in particular, was probably the result of censorship/self-censor-

The new text at 136-139, "Tu spandi un'iride?.. / Tutto è ridente," is particularly ill-suited to the music V wrote for the words "Spesso al tuo popolo / Donasti il pianto." And the strength of the original verse "Ma i ceppi hai franto / Se in te fidò" is considerable.

A simple integration of the original version at 136-143, however, is problematic. When the text was rewritten, it was altered extensively. Here are the two versions, side by side:

Original

Immenso Jeovha, Chi non ti sente? Tua man possente Or si mostrò.

Spesso al tuo popolo Donasti il pianto; Ma i ceppi hai franto Tu vibri il fulmine?... Se in te fidò.

Revised

Immenso Jeovha, Chi non ti sente? Chi non è polvere Innanzi a te? Tu spandi un'iride?...

Tutto è ridente. L'uom più non è.

On formal grounds, a mixture of the first stanza of the revised version and the second stanza of the original version would create an incoherent rhyme scheme, a matter of no little importance to composers and librettists of the period. But, more important, the semantic aspect of the two versions is considerably different: the original versions presents an active God, who can show his hand and break the chains of a captive people; the revised version presents a God before whom man is dust, a mythical purveyor of rainbows and lightning bolts, but not an active force in history. However attractive the hypothesis of combining the two versions may be, then, the resulting text would remain problematic. Although such an integration might well be contemplated in the context of a particular performance, WGV follows V's revised version, the version performed at the premiere and found in every secondary source of the opera.

138 Fen A: The word "e" is missing, but the text over Fen's line is in the hand of a copyist (see the Notes to Appendix 1E). V himself wrote the text under Zac, and there the verb is present.

141 Anna A: "diminuendo" in the second half of the measure / WGV converts this to ______, matching the _____ in 140 and imitating the signs in Fen and Nab.

142 Anna A: A slur covers the last three notes, but this is appropriate only to the declamation of the original text, "in te fidò." With the definitive text, the slur must be restricted to the final two notes.

142 Ism A: J. on the final two beats / WGV substitutes , following all other parts.

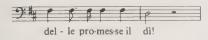
146-147 Anna, Nab, Sac, Coro B. A: ff on the downbeat of 147 / WGV moves it to the preceding upbeat in Anna, Sac, and Coro B., following the parallel passage at 133-134 (see Note 133-134).

150 A: Whether by intention or inadvertence, V neglected to set two verses of text for Zac in MI42:

ZAC. (agli Ebrei) Ecco venuto, o popolo, Delle promesse il dì!

A copyist, acting on his own accord or following V's instructions, provided an unaccompanied setting for this text beginning on the second staff from the top, and concluding with the final note on the downbeat of 150 in the staff normally assigned to Zac:





The composer himself ultimately refused this emendation, crossing it out and writing "no!" above it, while marking Cor Ing "sì."

150-184 A: A sign at the end of 149 and repeated at the beginning of 185, probably not in V's hand, clearly signals a cut of 150-184. A simple cut of these bars is impossible. The tonalities do not mesh, while the choral "Cadde..." at 186 makes no sense without the death of Abi. It is possible that the sign suggests only the dimensions of the cut, while the details were worked out elsewhere. Certainly it would be possible to imagine 185-197 transposed down a half tone (with emendations in the VI parts at 195-197, etc.). They could even overlap the end of "Immenso Jeovha," so that the instrumental music of 185-186 would be played together with the choral parts of 148-149. With the omission of the choral parts of 186, the connection becomes both musically and dramatically feasible.

This circumstances surrounding the omission of the "Morte di Abigaille" are traced in the introduction. No contemporary source provides a conclusion that embraces precisely the cut indicated in A. Four manuscript sources (I-Nc¹, I-Nc², I-Nc³, and US-Bm), however, close the opera with an orchestral passage in D major that overlaps with the final measure (149) of "Immenso Jeovha." The example below, whose primary source is I-Nc³, reproduces these orchestral parts in piano score. Presumably the voices were intended to cut off after the downbeat of 149a (as seen clearly in US-Bm).

I-Nc² offers essentially the same text as I-Nc³, with the heading "Battute per far finire quest'opera come s'è fatta a San Carlo": the notation, however, is sloppy. US-Bm, a cleaner copy of the same music, provides confused readings for the winds and brass. I-Nc¹ presents a different, less satisfactory version, in six measures.

152-155 A: V spread his stage direction out over

these four measures. In MI⁴², a similar instruction is reserved for the beginning of the Scena Ultima, i.e., 156. The text reads: "ABIGAILLE sorretta da due donne Babilonesi e detti." At 153, V wrote, incorrectly, "soretta"; at 154-155, he substituted "due guerrieri" for the "due donne Babilonesi."

154 Coro D. A: . on the last two beats / WGV adds the second prolonging dots, as in Coro T. and B.

156 Abi MI⁴²: It is worthwhile reporting the whole of Abi's text, as the punctuation in MI⁴² calls for pauses in places rather different from those in V's setting:

Su me... morente... esanime... (a Fenena)

Discenda il tuo... perdono!...

Fenena!... io... fui colpevole...

Punita or... ben... ne sono!

Vieni!... costor... s'amavano... (ad Ism.)

Fidan lor speme... in te! – (a Nabuc.)

Or chi mi toglie... al ferreo

Pondo del... mio... delitto?...

Ah!... tu dicesti... o popolo... (agli Ebrei)

Solleva... Iddio... l'afflitto!...

Te chiamo... o Dio... te... venero!...

Non... male... di... re a me!!...

Notice also that the antepenultimate verse is placed in italics in MI⁴². Although V does not differentiate it in any way in A, that Abi is quoting the Hebrews here makes Solera's italics appropriate, and WGV renders this by underlining the phrase.

158 Abi A: y... on the fourth beat / WGV eliminates one of the prolonging dots.

163 Abi A: The final note is g'. This is contradicted by the reading of the otherwise parallel 159, as well as by Cor Ing, which is playing here at the lower third. WGV substitutes $f\sharp'$, also the interpretation of pvRI. 168 Vc A: V left this measure blank. Another hand later filled in Vc at 168, copying the part from 169. The absence of the accompanimental figure at 168 does leave the measure very empty. It cannot be excluded, of course, that this was V's intention, but pvRI already testifies to the presence of Vc at 168. WGV therefore adds the part, but uses typographically smaller notes.

170-172 Abi A: "fereo," at 170. Notice also that MI42 has a "?" after "delitto": WGV follows V's "!"



173 Abi A: on the third beat / WGV deletes one of the prolonging dots.

175-181 Coro A: The choral intervention, which V marked "Coro d'Ebrei," is not in MI⁴². WGV adds "Tutti" for the final choral phrase at 186.

176-177 Abi, Coro A: "aflitto."

176-177 A: There is a change of folio (from f. 234 to f. 234°) between these measures. The slur in Abi extends considerably into the margin, but those of the instrumental parts close within 176. That V did not use a larger slur over 174 and 175, where no page turn intervened, suggests that none is wanted here either.

178 Abi MI⁴²: "o Dio..." / WGV follows V's "te Dio...", though, as usual, pvRI carries the reading of MI⁴².

186 Coro MI⁴²: "Spirò..." / WGV follows V's "Cadde..."

Appendix 1 Sketches and Rejected Fragments

A. A DRAFT FOR ZACCARIA'S CABALETTA IN N. 2

Zaccaria's cabaletta, "Come notte a sol fulgente," was drafted in skeleton score in the autograph in a version rather different from the definitive one. Sometime later, before he came to orchestrate the number. V returned to the cabaletta and made substantial alterations to the melodic line; later still he inserted a substantially recast text. In a few cases, the presence of these earlier versions causes problems in establishing the defintive reading. These problems are discussed in the following Notes to N. 2: 98-187; 99-100; 111-112 (Zac); 111-112; and 161 (Coro). Here we wish merely to reconstruct the early skeleton-score version, before either text or music was revised. This reconstruction poses serious editorial problems, and the transcription offered here is in part conjectural. It accounts for what can be read clearly in A, however, and presents a musically viable interpretation of V's notation.

107-110 Cb A: These measures are editorial conjecture. The definitive Cb shows no signs of erasure, but the draft melody clearly demands a different harmonic plan. We must assume that V drafted the first version without bass, and added Cb only after he had made the essential melodic revisions.

108 Zac A: Before arriving at the definitive version, V made a further revision, given as a footnote in the edition.

(Sketches and rejected fragments relative to NN. 8 and 12 are reproduced and examined in Appendixes 1B, C, and D of the full score and Critical Commentary.)

E. A DRAFT FOR "IMMENSO JEOVHA" IN N. 13

After V had completed an earlier version of "Immenso Jeovha," he made a number of important changes to the musical and literary text. These are best addressed as two, quite separate stages.

The first stage involved the rescoring of vocal parts. V's original version of "Immenso Jeovha" had no part for Anna. Sometime later, V decided to add such a role, writing it on the staff above Fen. Anna's part appears at 123-124, 127-128, 131-135, and 140-149; in all these passages, V simply gave her the part originally sung by Fen, and rescored Fen to sing an inner line.

A further rescoring took place at 125-126 and 129-130. Here V decided to eliminate Sac from the small vocal ensemble and transferred the bass part to Zac. He also made other adjustments to these measures, all of which are reported in the Critical Notes below.

However, sometime after these musical revisions, there occurred a far more thoroughgoing change to "Immenso Jeovha," one that primarily involved a revision of the literary text. (The original version of the text is reproduced in the introduction and in Note 136-143 to N. 13.)

We cannot be absolutely sure of each word, as this text has been crossed through with unusual throughness. As becomes clear from the transcription, most of the musical changes are alterations of rhythm necessary to accommodate the new text.

There remains the larger question of why the textual changes were made. These are addressed in the introduction. One point, however, is worth mentioning here. It is clear that V employed a copyist to assist him with the changes. At 127-128, 131-132, and 140-147, V altered only the uppermost part (Anna) and the lowest part (Coro B.); with a very few exceptions, all other parts are altered by a copyist whose musical hand is clearly different from V's. That V enlisted the help of a copyist, together with the fact that such extensive alterations did not result in a complete rewriting of the number, strongly suggest that these revisions were made under the pressure of a deadline.

The transcription is of the version of "Immenso Jeovha" that existed immediately before the text changes, and so includes the rescorings discussed above. As some may wish to include this piece in performance, WGV has made the necessary editorial interventions (see Critical Notes below).

125-126, 129-130 A: As mentioned above, V made a number of revisions to these measures, most notably in the elimination of Sac. An earlier version can, however, be reconstructed (see example on p. LIX).

128 Fen A: A slur covers the notes, but is probably a remnant of the stage in which Fen sang the uppermost line. As it is confirmed nowhere else, WGV ignores it.

133 A: The "ah" cannot have been part of the original verse, and must have been added by V.



Appendix 2 A Transposed Version of the Coro di Leviti

- 7-9 Coro MI⁴²: See Note 7-9 to N. 7.
- 9 Ism A2: See Note 9 to N. 7.
- 11 Coro WGV: The staccati on the fourth beat are derived from A1.
- 12 Coro A2: non the fourth beat, in the hand of the copyist / WGV halves the value of the first note.
- 15 WGV: For a discussion of the tempo indication, see Note 15 to N. 7.
- 15 A2: In the instrumental parts, the copyist wrote only "staccate" above VI I and below Cb (Vc = Cb). WGV integrates the fuller markings provided by V in A1.
- 15-39, 57-80 Coro A2: The copyist was particularly parsimonious about signs of articulation at 15-39. WGV derives them freely from V's markings in A1, employing smaller notation, within a single set of pointed brackets. In the repetition, 57-80, where the copyist wrote only the vocal lines, he supplied > at 77 alone; WGV proceeds as at 15-39.
- 17-18 Coro MI⁴²: See Note 17-18 to N. 7.
- 18 Coro A2: See Note 18 to N. 7.
- 24 Coro MI⁴²: See Note 24 to N. 7.
- 27, 31 WGV: The second f is derived from A1.
- 27-39 Coro MI⁴²: See Note 27-39 to N. 7.
- 29, 33 Coro WGV: The second p is derived from A1.
- 33, 71, 75 Coro A2: See Note 33, 71, 75 to N. 7.
- **39-108 A2**: As described in the source notes to N. 7, **A2** is in V's hand, except for the vocal parts, which are in the hand of the copyist. At 109 only Vl I and Cb are in the copyist's hand; at 110-117, all parts are in V's hand.
- 41-42 Ism A2: See Note 41-42 to N. 7.
- 43 Ism A2: The second and third notes are slurred by the copyist. WGV follows V's notation (in A1),

moving this slur to the first and second notes.

- 43-44 Ism MI⁴²: See Note 43-44 to N. 7.
- 45-51 Ism MI⁴²: See Note 45-51 to N. 7.
- 52 Ism WGV: The ____ is derived from A1.
- 53 Coro MI⁴²: See Note 53 to N. 7.
- 53-56 Ism, Coro WGV: The > are derived from A1 (but see Note 54 to N. 7).
- 56 Ism MI⁴²: See Note 56 to N. 7.
- **78, 80** Coro **A2**: See Note 78, 80 to N. 7.
- **82**, **84**, **90**, **92** Coro WGV: The > are derived from **A1**.
- 87, 95 Coro WGV: The slurs are derived from A1.
- 94 Ism A2: The copyist repeated the g[b]', but V's notation in A1 is unequivocal; cf. 86, where the copyist provided the correct pitch.
- 109-110 Anna MI⁴²: See Note 109-110 to N. 7.
- 110 WGV: The *Meno mosso* is derived from the parallel passage in A1.
- 113-114 MI42: See Note 113-114 to N. 7.

Appendix 3 (Milan, March 1842) Autograph Choral Arrangements of "Va pensiero" and "Immenso Jeovha"

A. Notes to "Va pensiero"

- 1-17, 30-36 Aa: V notated only a single part, in bass clef, but it is clear from the transitions to and from four-part writing (at 17-18, 29-30, and 36-37) that he intended all voices (both male and female) to sing in unison throughout. WGV notates the entire chorus on four staves.
- 2 B. WGV: The slur between the first two notes, present in all parallel places in Aa (6, 14, 30), appears also in A.
- 2 B. A: "ale dorate" / Aa's "ali dorate" agrees with

MI42, pvRI, and all subsequent printed sources.

3, 7 B. A: The slur stretches to the second beat. But in Aa, V restricted the slur to the first beat in both measures. WGV allows the discrepancy to stand.

6 B. Aa: V's "ollezano" is clearly an error. WGV substitutes "olezzano," as in A and MI⁴².

8 B. Aa: On the second and fourth beats, V initially beamed all three notes together. Later, recognizing his mistake, he added an extra flag to the final note of each group.

11-12 B. Aa: Although V omitted the \sharp before the b in both measures, its presence in 10 in Aa, the sense of the music, and the readings of A all confirm that they must be added.

12 B. WGV: The editorially added staccati on the third note of the triplets on the third and fourth beats are derived from A.

15, 31 B. WGV: The slurs on the first-beat triplets are imitated from 3 and 7.

21 T. Aa: There is a slur between the first two notes, which would have to function as a tie. As T. must declaim a syllable on the second note, WGV eliminates the sign.

21 B. Aa: \int_{γ} on the second beat / WGV substitutes \int_{γ} , as in all other voices and the parallel passage in A.

24-25 T. Aa:



Expressive as the variant may be, it will not accommodate the text. WGV, following the rhythm of B., substitutes



while eliminating the slur.

29 D. II Aa: There is a slur between the first two notes. As this sign is not repeated elsewhere, WGV deletes it and (following D. I) adds a slur between the second and third notes.

35-37 Coro Aa: V neglected to supply words from the beginning of 35 through the first beat of 37: for B. alone at 35-36 and for the entire Coro on the downbeat of 37. WGV supplies the inevitable verbal repetitions, on the model of the parallel passage in A.

B. Notes to "Immenso Jeovha"

2-26 Aa: Throughout the chorus, V adopted the spelling "Jehova," rather than the "Jeovha" found in A and MI⁴². To avoid confusion, especially between the titles of the two versions, WGV substitutes "Jeovha" here.

4 D. I Aa: The dotted rhythm on the first two beats is not present in A, where the uppermost part is rhythmically identical to the other voices. This is just the first of a number of rhythmic details in which the

two versions differ. These additional discrepancies will not be listed here.

11, 24 D. I, II Aa: | 7. | / WGV adds the missing 7, as in N. 13.

16-17 D. I Aa: The word "ridente" was badly smudged. To clarify the text, a hand (possibly V's) wrote it again above the music.

20 B. Aa: | J. J. / WGV halves the final note, as in all other voices.

24-25 D. I, II Aa: The ff are found on the downbeat of 25. WGV moves them to the preceding upbeat, their more logical position and the apparent position of the ff in D. I at the parallel 11.

Appendix 4 (Milan, Teatro alla Scala, Autumn 1842)

N. 13A. Preghiera fenena puntata per la Zecchini

52a Fen A: The cross-relation between the E dominant seventh chord in the orchestra and the g'' in Fen on the second half of the third beat seems intentional, and WGV respects it.

53a Fen MI42: "O splendor" / V adopted this spelling in N. 13.

53a Fen A: A later hand, in ink, wrote an alternative version of the first three beats on the staff above the vocal line:



55a A: In the original version (N. 13), the bass moves to $f \parallel$ in the second half of the measure, while the upper instrumental voices complete a diminished seventh chord. If the present version is to be performed, all upper voices should simply repeat the first half of the measure in the second half. Perhaps anticipating the problem, a later hand (in pencil) wrote the original version of Fen's melody (for the fourth beat alone) on the staff above.

56a Fen A: A later hand, in ink, wrote an alternative version of the final three beats on the staff between the vocal line and bass:

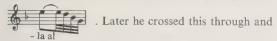


56a-57a Fen A: "Idio."

59a Fen A: A later hand, in ink, wrote an alternative version of the second half of the measure on the staff above the vocal line:



65a Fen A: For the fourth beat, V originally wrote:



supplied the definitive version on the staff between the vocal line and the bass.

Two further layers of intervention, not in V's hand, are to be found in this measure. A later hand (in ink) wrote an alternative version of the final two beats on the staff above the vocal line:



(also in ink) wrote yet another version on the staff between the vocal line and the bass, the first four notes underneath the first beat, the second four underneath the third beat:



67a-68a Fen A: Apparently V began to write the final six vocal notes as in N. 13, then modified the part as in Appendix 4. Furthermore, over these same notes (and straying physically into 68a), the hand responsible for the last example given in Note 65a sketched (in ink) an outline for a cadenza on the dominant, presumably to be performed in the second half of 67a. More than one layer is visible, but the final intention appears to be:



Appendix 5 (Venice, Teatro La Fenice, Carnival 1842-43)

As discussed in the introduction, Verdi composed a new "Romanza" for Fenena when *Nabucco* was revived at Venice's Teatro La Fenice on 26 December 1842. The "Romanza" replaces Fenena's "Preghiera" in N. 13, and can be inserted into the score without difficulty: 44-67 of N. 13 are replaced by 44a-68a of N. 13b. Unfortunately, no autograph of the Romanza has turned up, nor does there seem to be a full score. The present version has been assembled by collating manuscript parts found in the La Fenice archives.

N. 13B. ROMANZA FENENA

Source

I-Vfen

"Busta 45, n. 62" of the La Fenice archives contains a collection of manuscript parts for the Romanza Fenena. A few require some comment:

Violino Principale: The part contains, on three staves, the complete vocal line for Fen, a skeletal version of the orchestral accompaniment (with important instrumental cues), and VI I.

Taglietto: The part contains the same basic information as the Violino Principale, but is not an exact copy of it. Though the word taglietto is obscure in this context, it is likely that the part was used during performances.

Per suggerire: This is the prompter's copy. It contains the vocal line and a complete bass, with no differentiation made between "Solo" and "Tutti" or between Vc and Cb.

Critical Notes

45a Fen Vfen: The last note is e'' in Vl Principale, the *taglietto*, and the prompter's part. WGV follows the more logical f'' in Fen's own part and Arpa.

47a Fen Vfen: The (with its subsequent tie) on the second beat is missing in Fen's separate performing part. It is absent also in the prompter's part. WGV integrates the note and tie (without typographical distinction) on the basis of the vocal line found in Arpa, VI Principale, and the taglietto.

Furthermore, in the alternative version in Fen's part, on the fourth beat, the notes are beamed together. **WGV** separates the last pair of sixteenth notes (as in the original version) in order to clarify the declamation.

48a Fen Vfen: In the prompter's part, there is a slur over the d'' - c'' in the second third of the first beat. As it is present nowhere else in the sources for Fen's melody, WGV does not integrate it into the edition.

50a Fen Vfen: Though the concluding note is e'' in every part containing Fen, it is clearly a mistake for f'', found at the parallel 62a.

53a Fen Vfen: The note on the third beat is e'' in Arpa, Vl Principale, the *taglietto*, and the prompter's part. WGV prefers f'', present in Fen's own part.

55a Fen Vfen: The slur over the final two notes, lacking in Fen's part, is taken from VI Principale and the *taglietto*.

56a Fen Vfen: The slur in the cadenza, lacking in Fen's part, is derived from VI Principale, the *taglietto*, and the prompter's part (although in this last case it stops two notes earlier).

56a Vfen: A single fermata is on the last \$\cdot\ \text{in Vc/Cb} \text{ "al Cembalo." In Fen and the prompter's part, the fermata lies between the final two rests, but closer to the third beat. In Arpa, there are fermatas on both rests. Instead of the two \$\cdot\ \text{, Fl, Cl, and Fg have a single } \to \text{, with a fermata. Following the sense of the vocal line, with its cadenza on the third beat followed by an upbeat ("con slancio") to the following measure, WGV employs two \$\cdot\ \text{, with fermatas over the first one in all these parts, the notation found in the orchestral sketch given in the VI Principale part.

In the other instrumental parts, there is a single whole rest with fermata, except for VI I, VI Principale,

and the *taglietto*, which all show | in the VI I part, as well as Ob II. Ott and Ob I have the same pattern, but with the fermata on the second rest. WGV adopts the version of VI I in all parts with rests.

61a Fen Vfen: There is neither a \sharp before the c' in the turn figure, nor a slur over this figure in the Fen part. Nor are they present in the other parts containing the vocal line (although Arpa has a \sharp , but with a confused set of notes). WGV derives both from the parallel figure at 45a.

63a Fen Vfen: On the final beat, all the notes are beamed together in every source for the vocal line. Following the pattern on the third beat, WGV separates the last two notes in order to accommodate the text.

There is no slur in the Fen part. In VI Principale a single slur covers the third and fourth beats. WGV

prefers to extend here the slurring from the parallel 51a.

64a-66a Vfen: Vc / Cb "al Cembalo," Vl Principale, and the taglietto contain added performance indications. In Vc / Cb "al Cembalo" and the taglietto there is an "affrett." across 64a-65a, while in Vl Principale there is a "mosso" at 64a. At 66a, there is a "ral." in the taglietto and a "meno" in Vl Principale. Although these markings are in hands other than that of the main copyist, they seem important enough to be incorporated into WGV. That they appear in the three parts primarily responsible for directing the performance encourages WGV to add them as "global" directions.

67a Fen Vfen: on the final beat, in the VI Principale / WGV uses a simple triplet, as in the Fen part and the taglietto.

NABUCODONOSOR



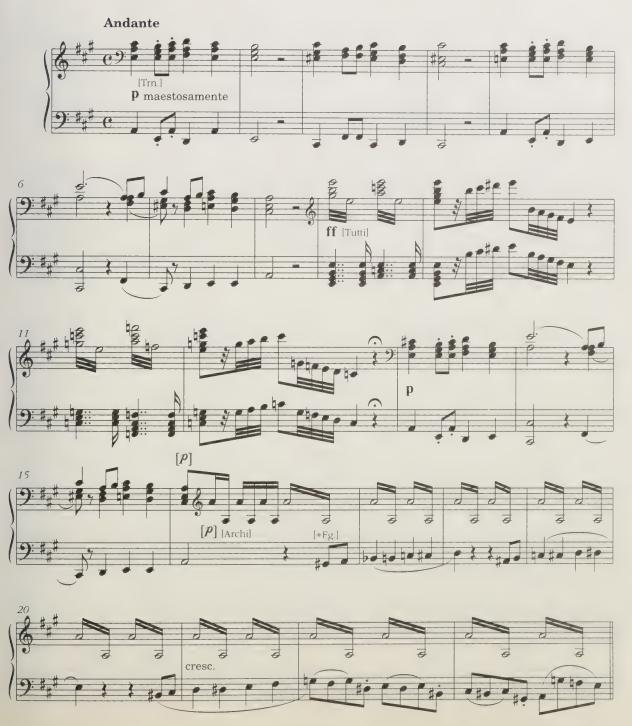
NABUCODONOSOR

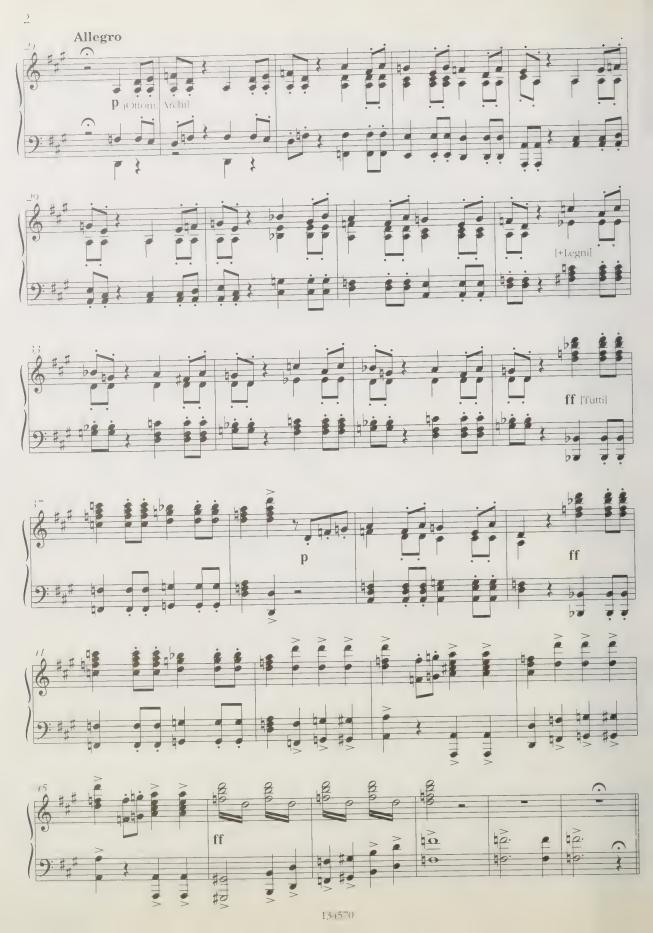


di *by* Giuseppe Verdi

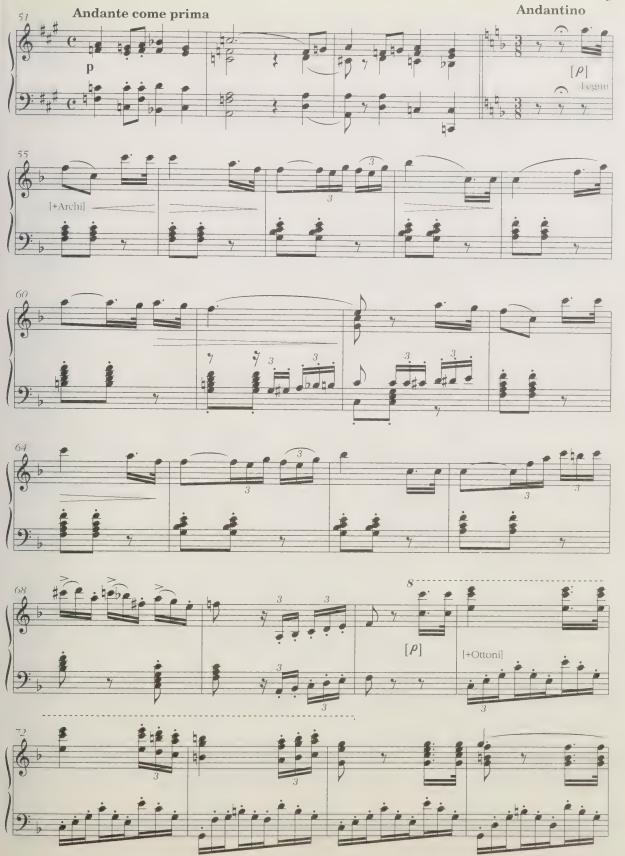
Sinfonia

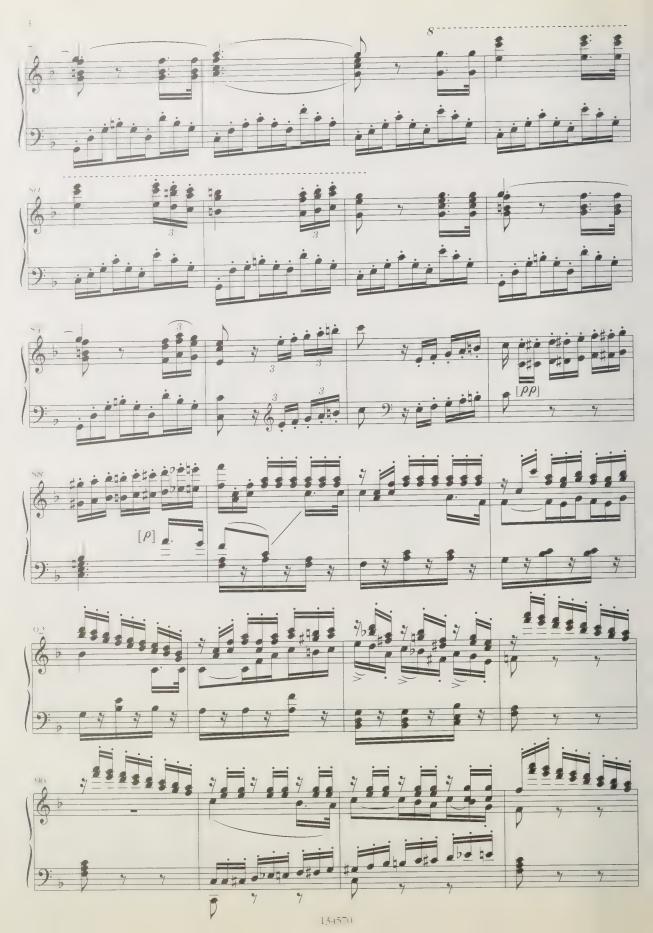
Overture





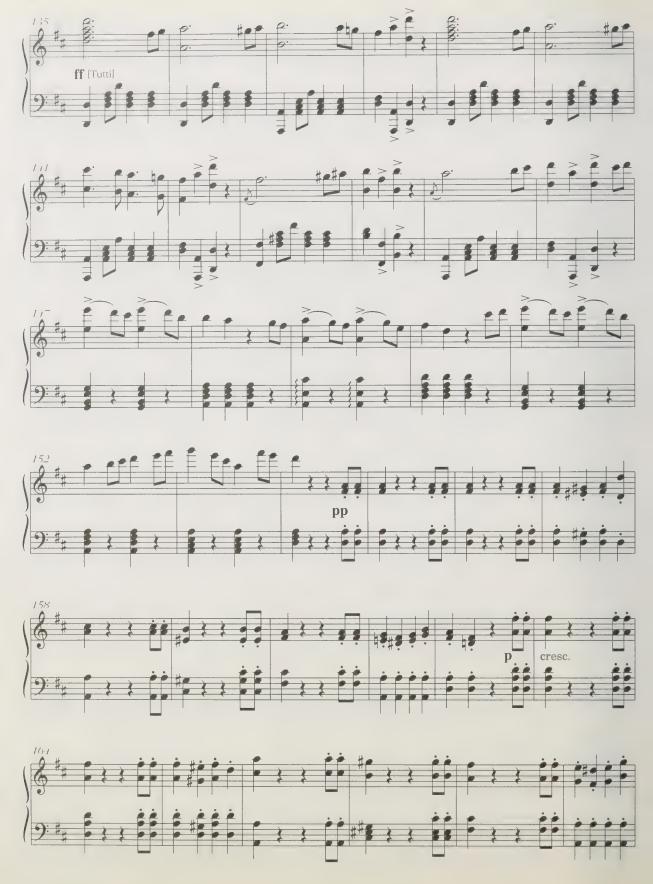




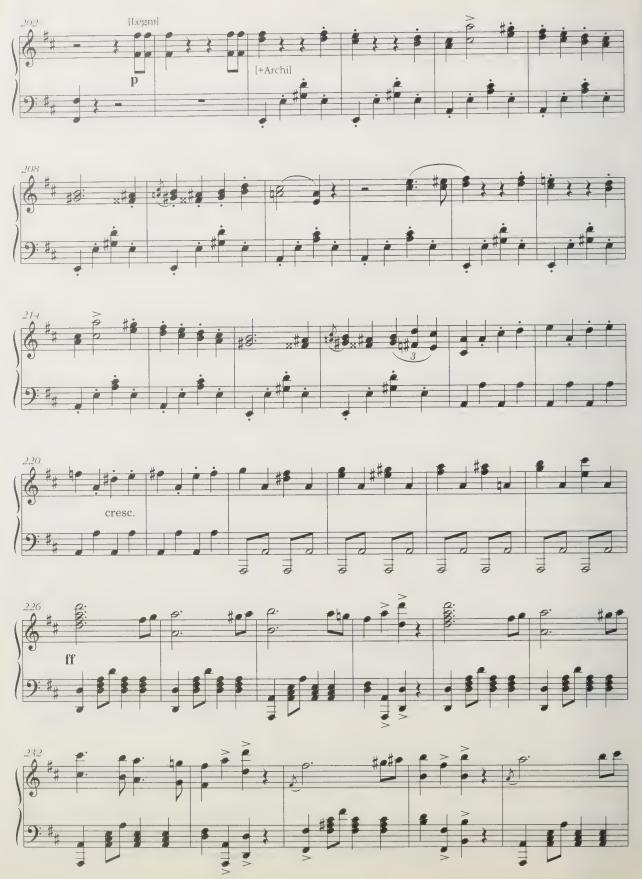


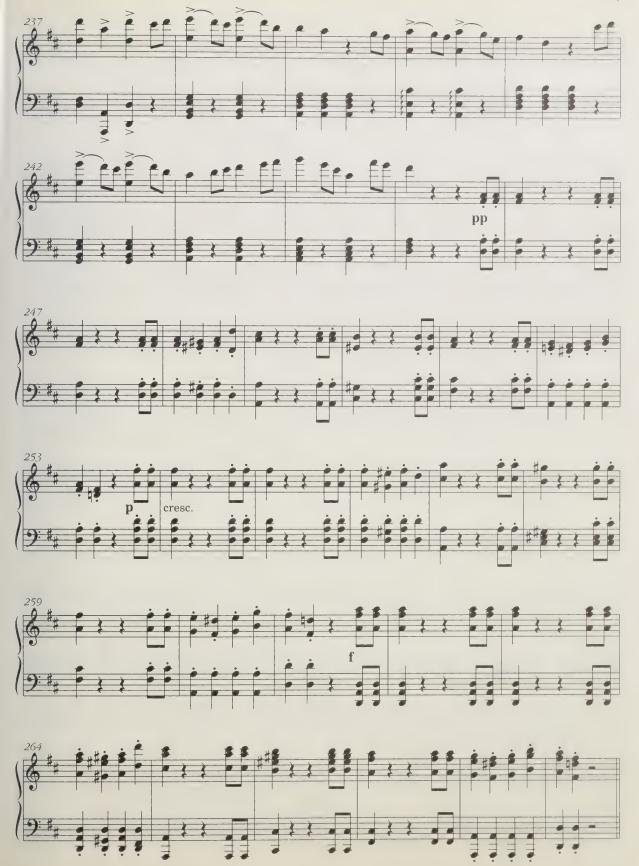


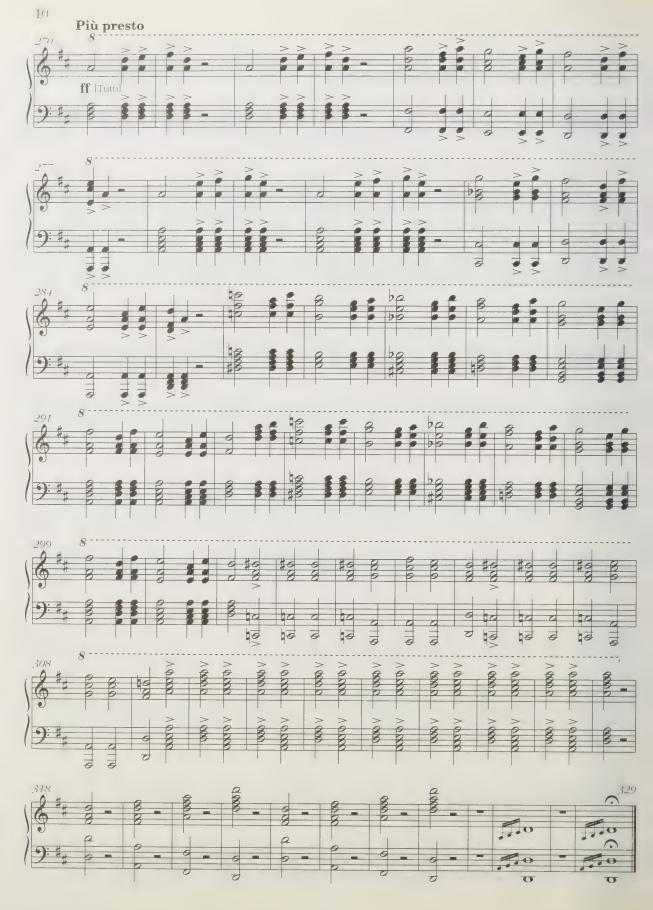












(PARTE PRIMA)

(Gerusalemme) N. 1. Introduzione

> (Così ha detto il Signore: ecco, io dò questa città in mano del re di Babilonia, egli l'arderà col fuoco.

Gerem. XXXIV)

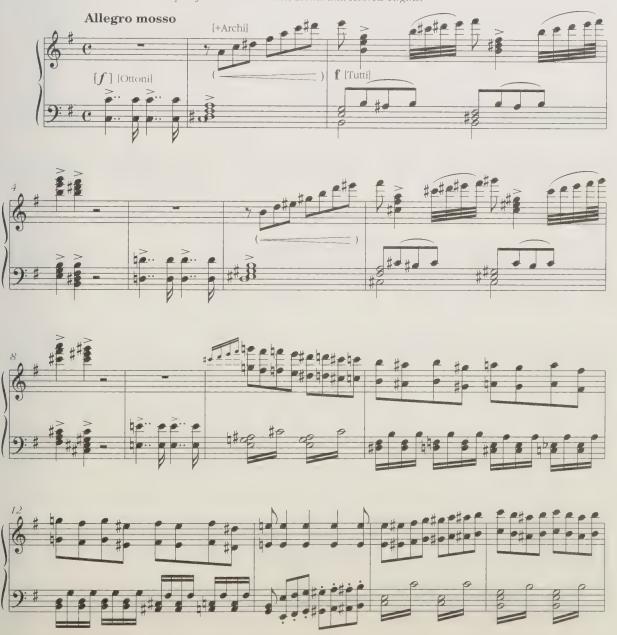
(PART ONE)

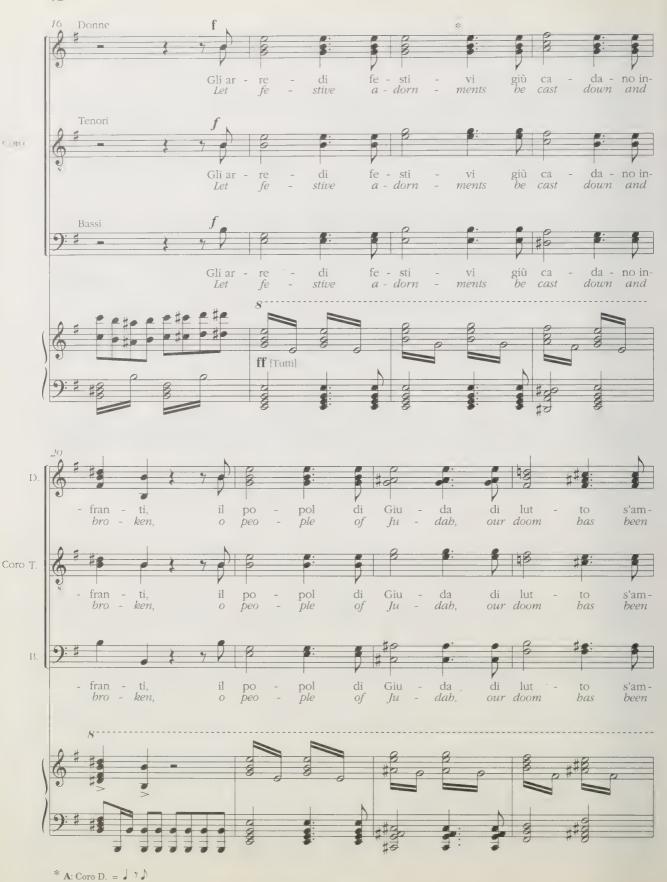
(Jerusalem) N. 1. Introduction

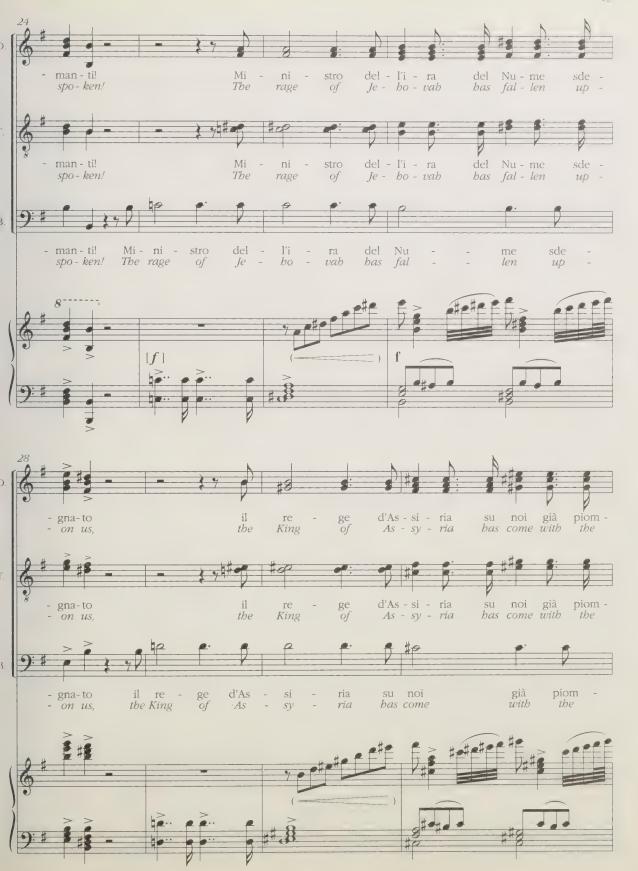
(Thus saith the Lord: Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire

Jeremiah, 34)

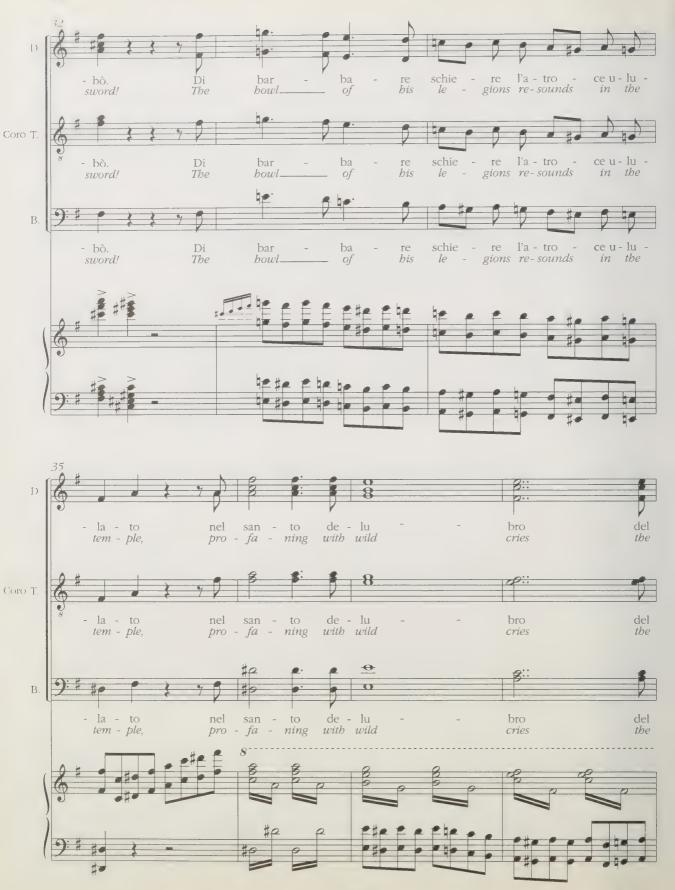
(SCENA PRIMA: Interno del Tempio di Salomone. Ebrei, Leviti e Vergini ebree) (SCENE ONE: Inside the Temple of Solomon. Hebrews, Levites and Hebrew virgins)





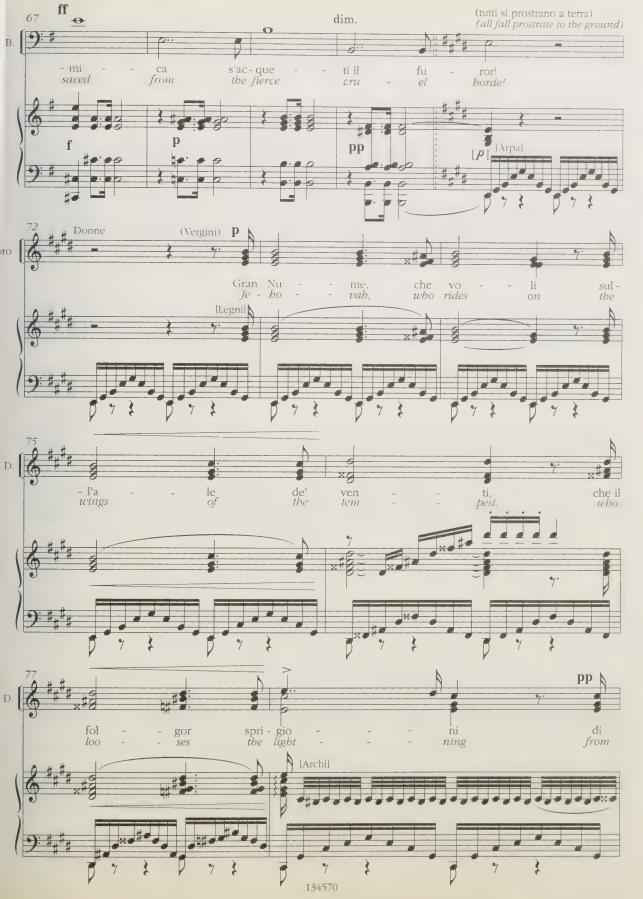


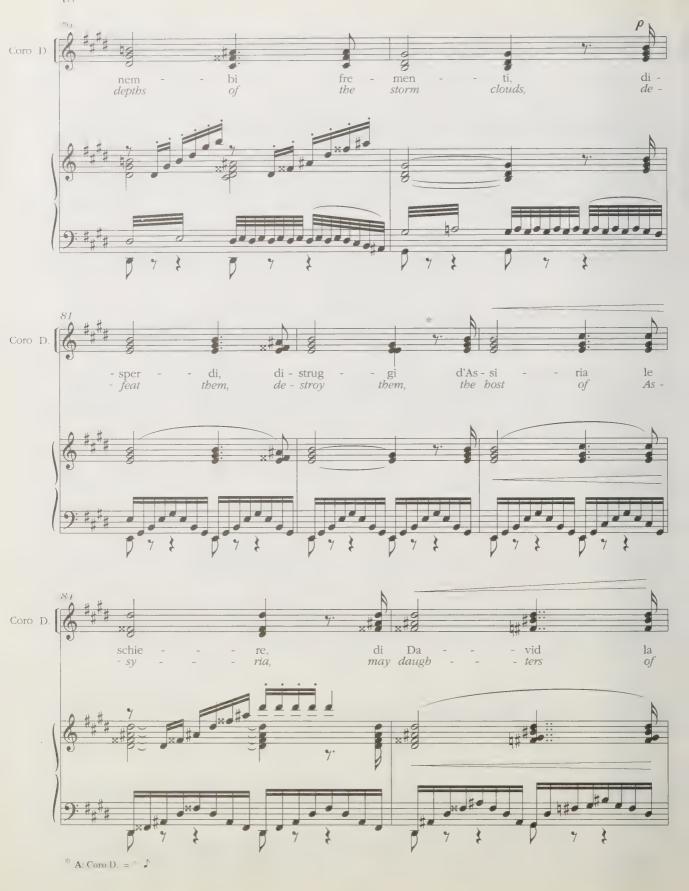






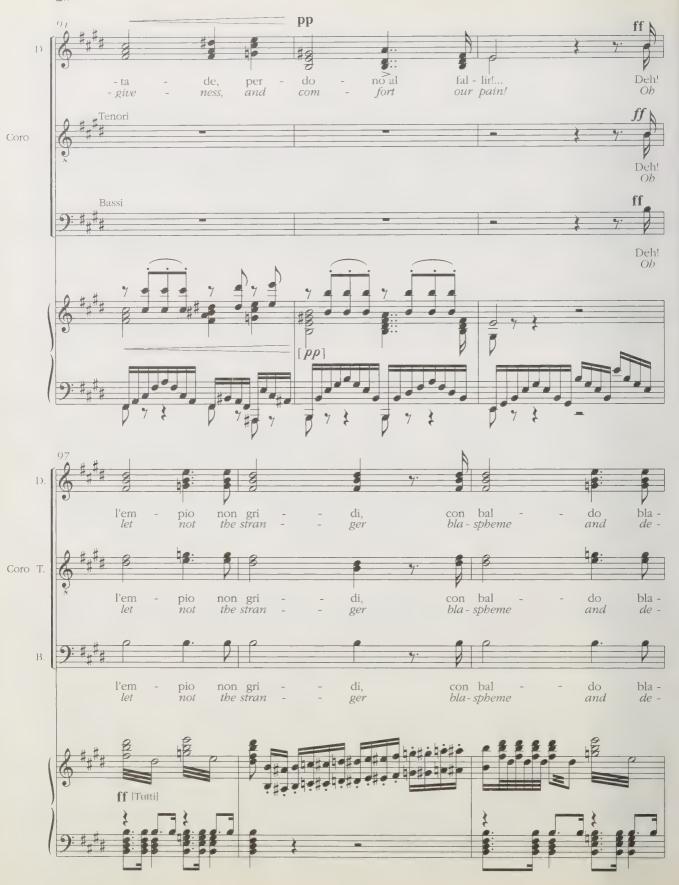


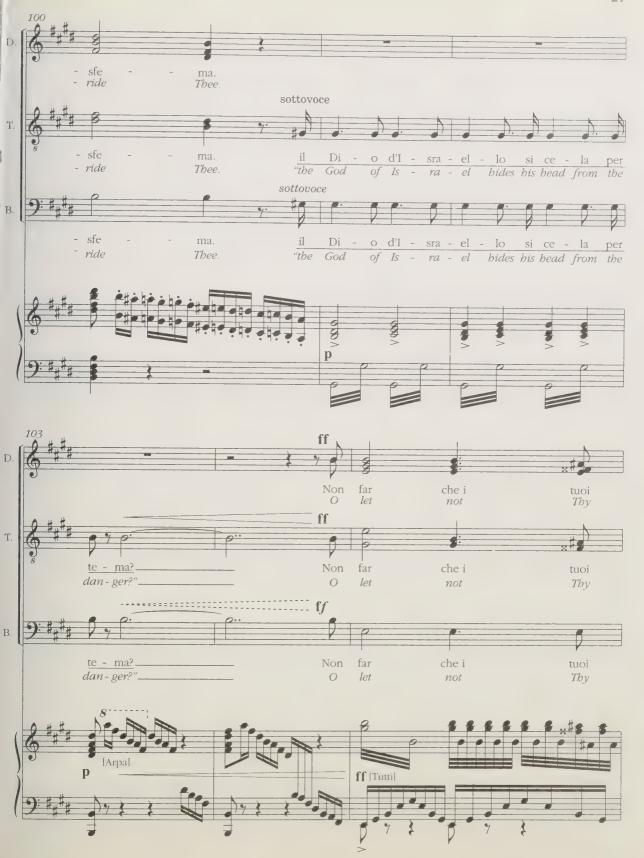




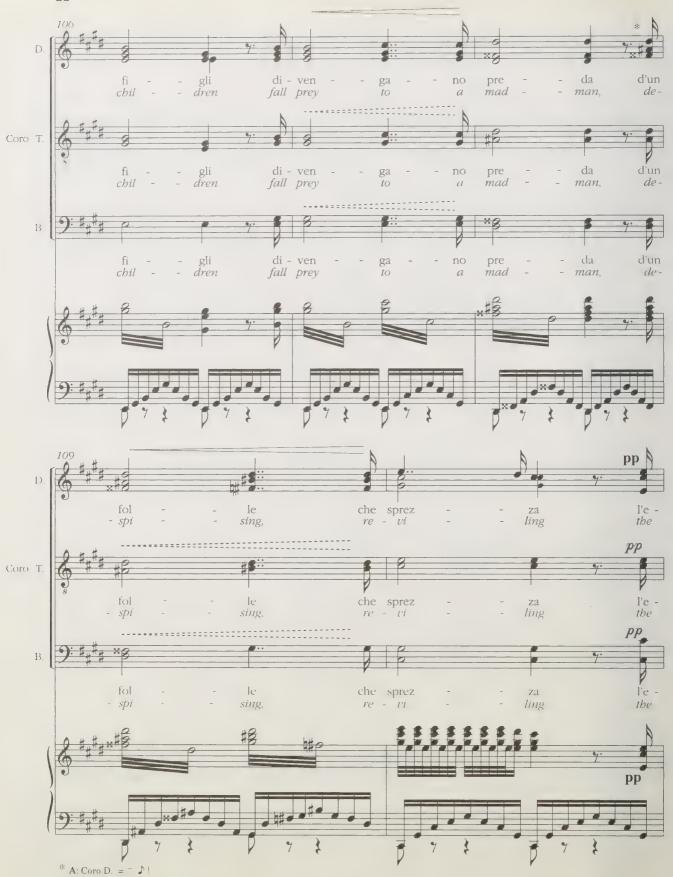


* A: Coro D. = 7 1



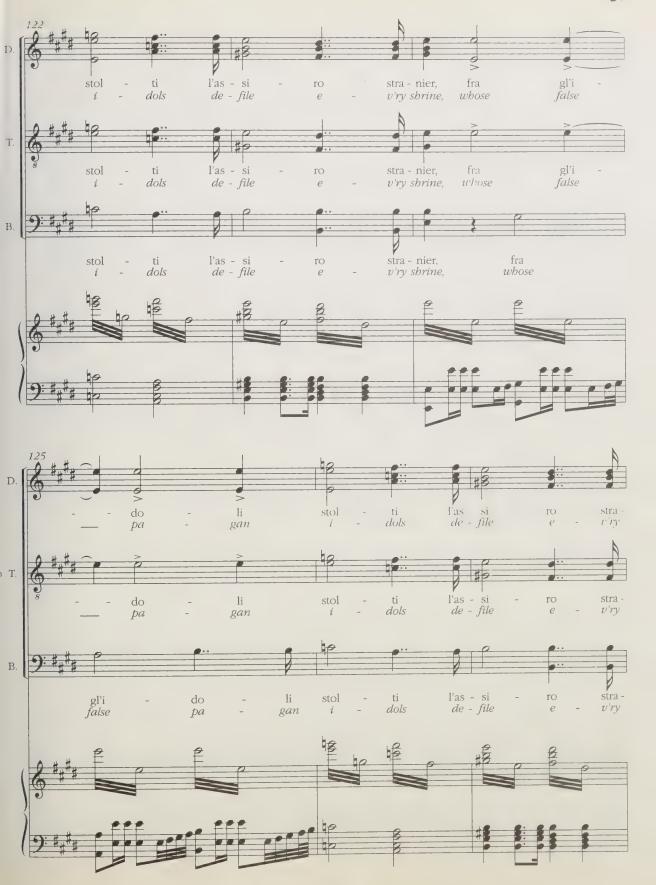


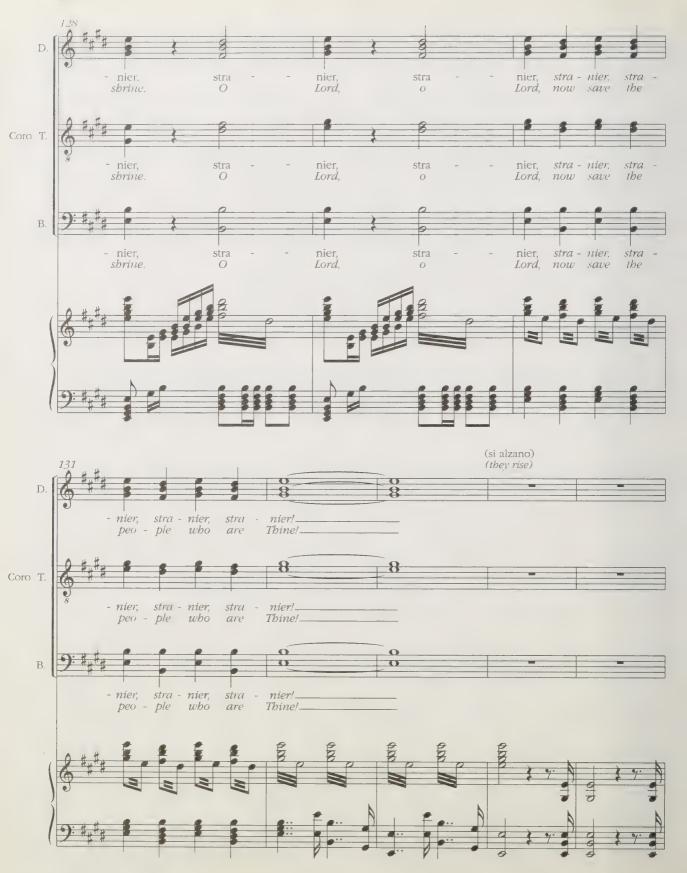










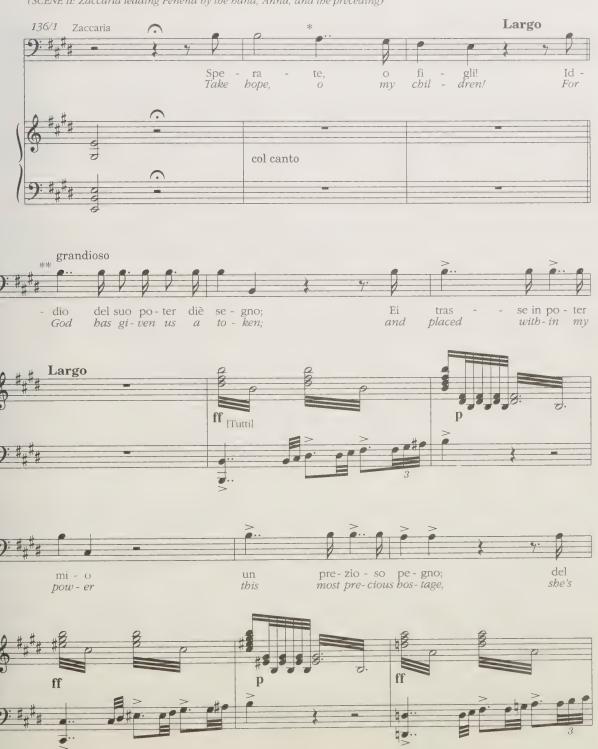


N. 2. Recitativo [e] Cavatina Zaccaria

* A: Zac. = .

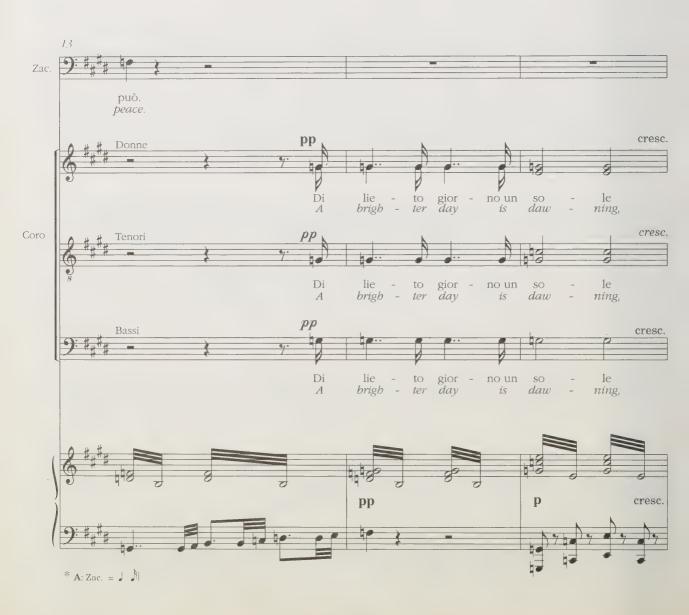
N. 2. Recitative [and] Cavatina Zaccaria

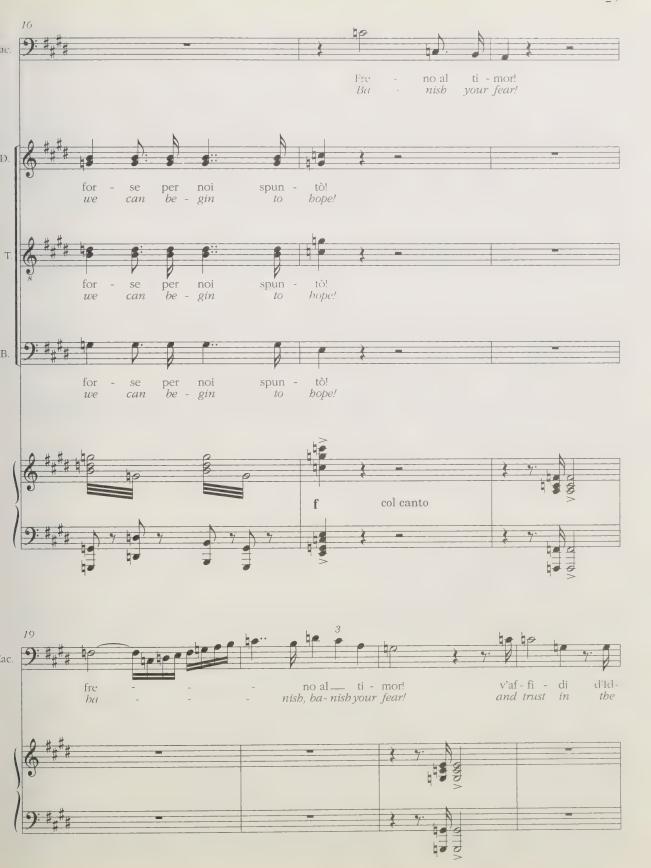
(SCENA II: Zaccaria tenendo per mano Fenena, Anna, e detti) (SCENE II: Zaccaria leading Fenena by the hand, Anna, and the preceding)

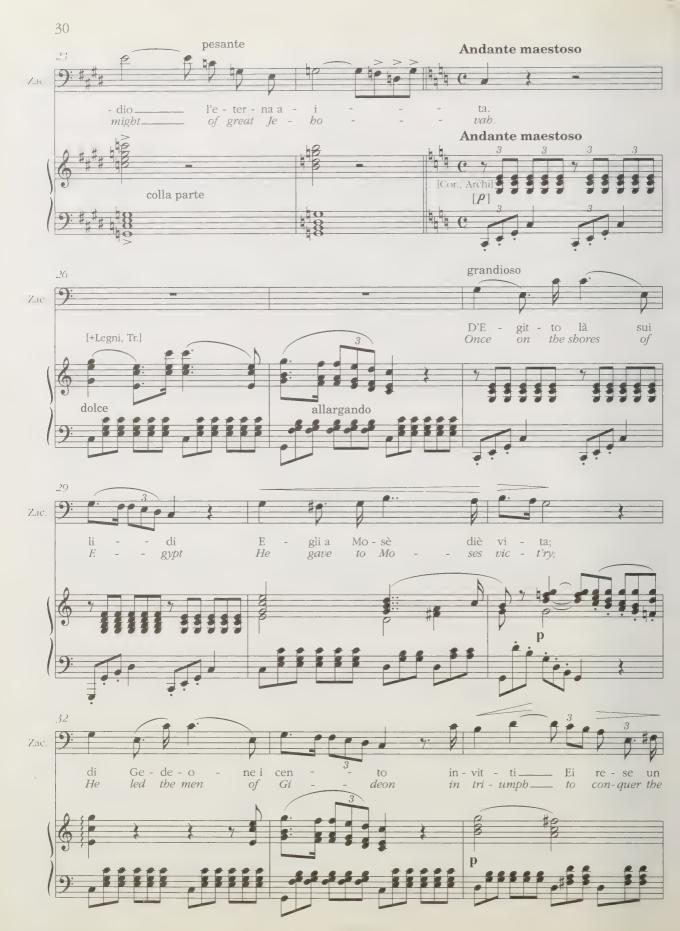


** A: Zac. = ...

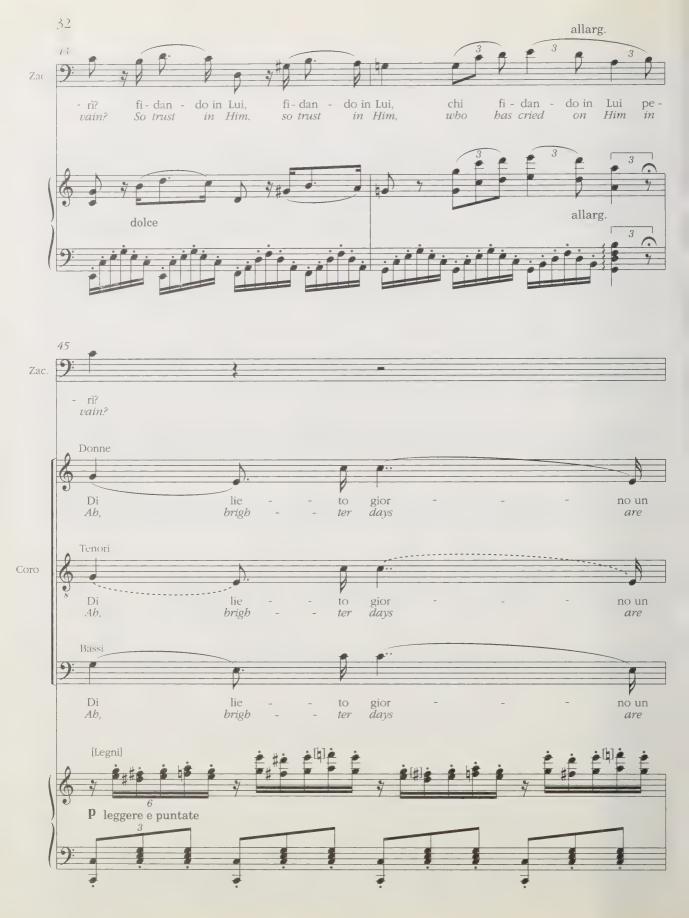


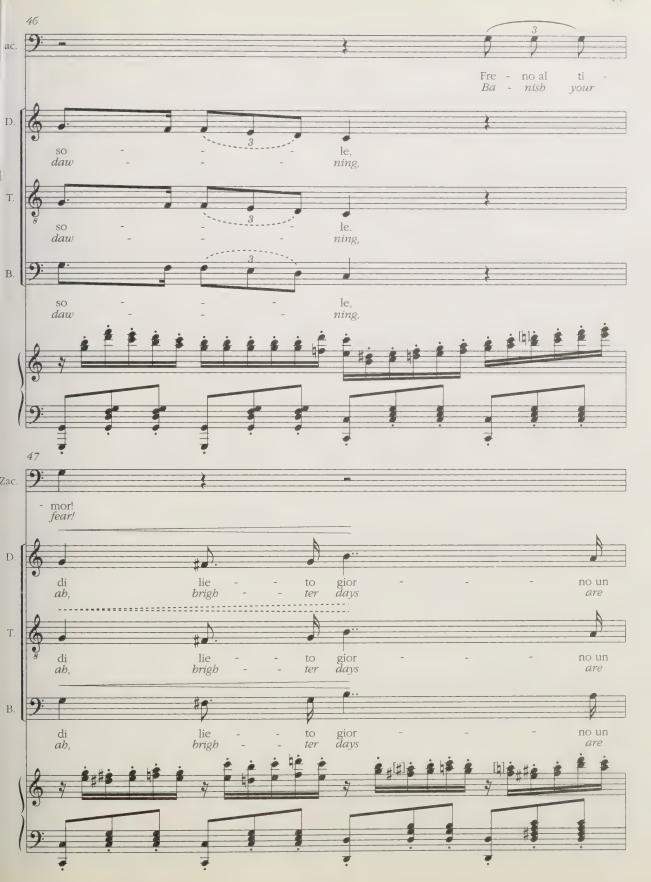


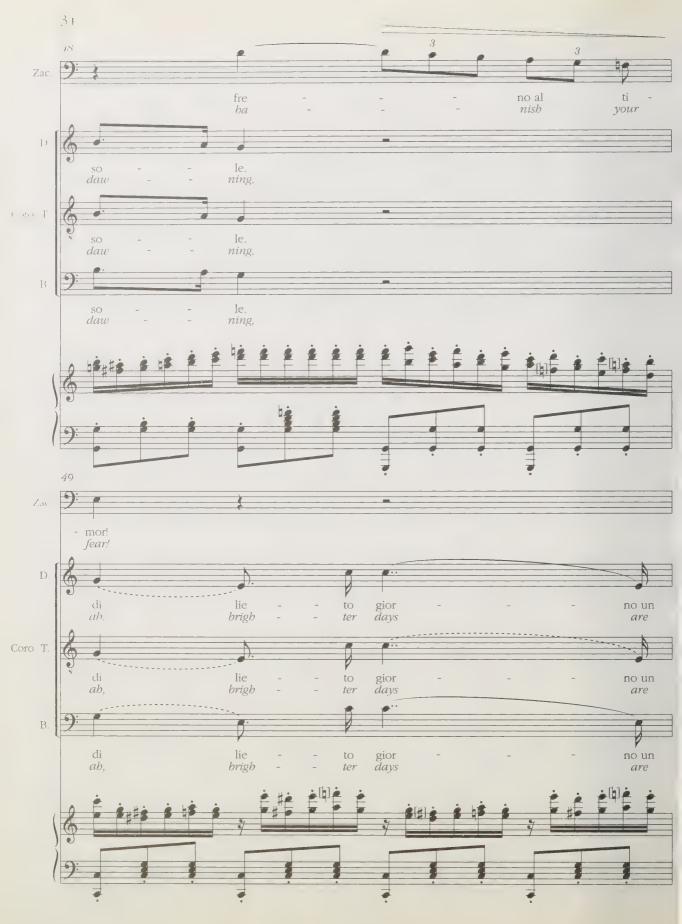




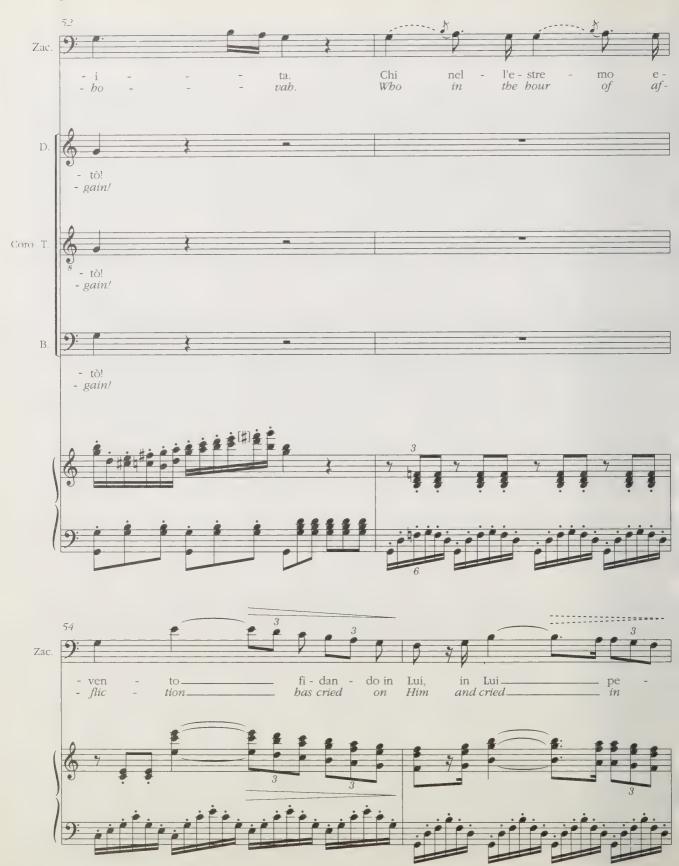


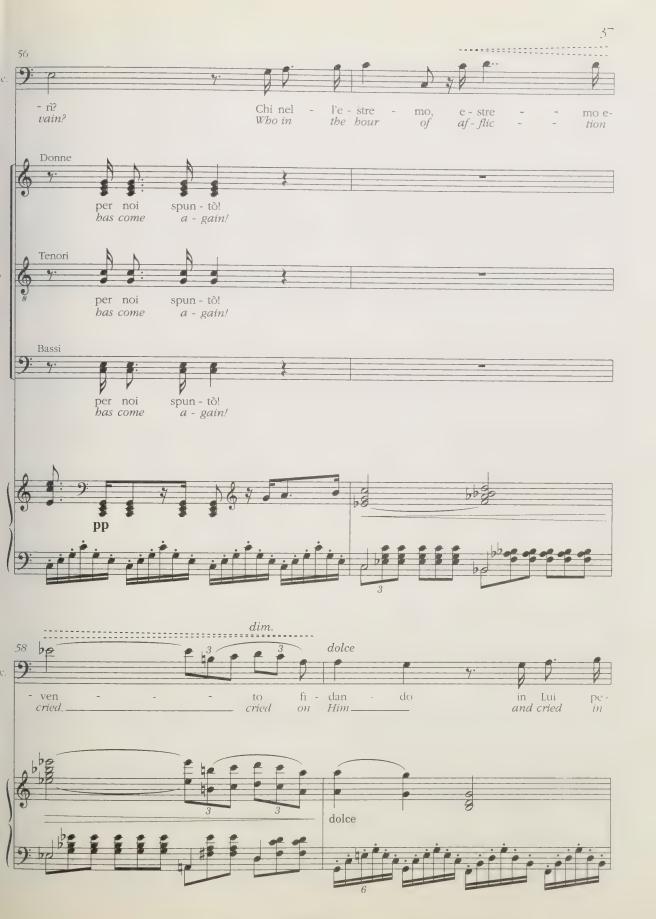


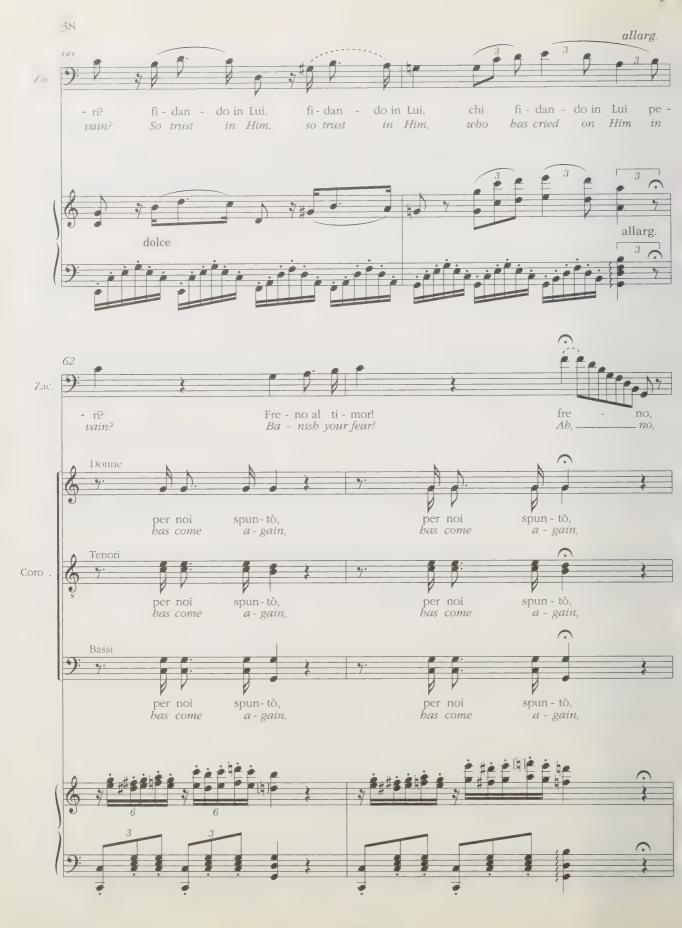


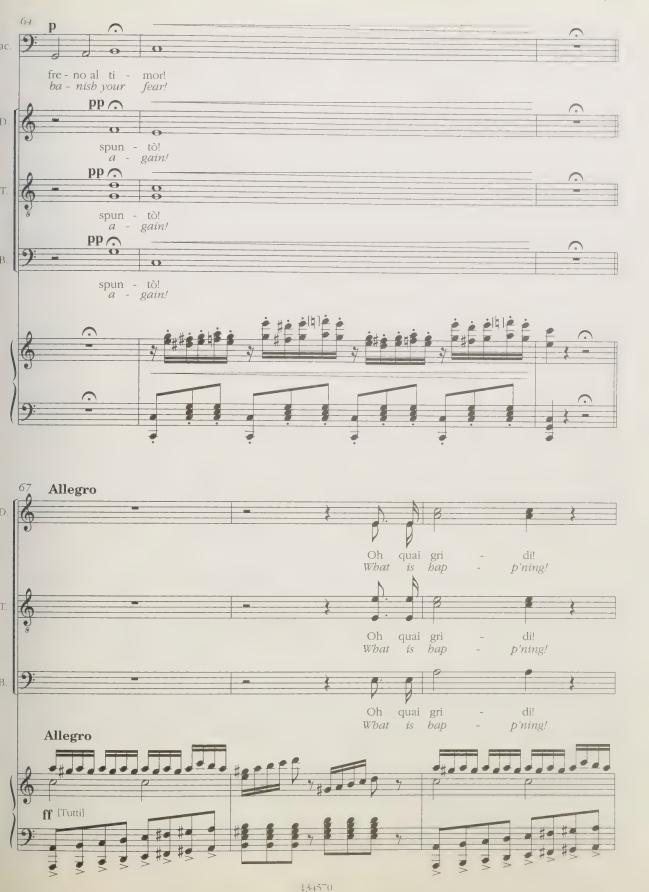




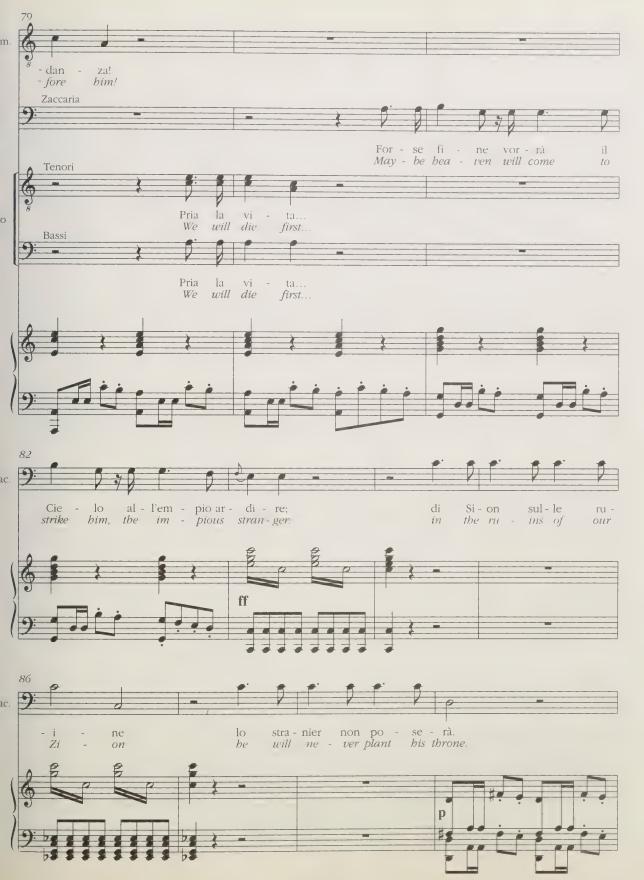


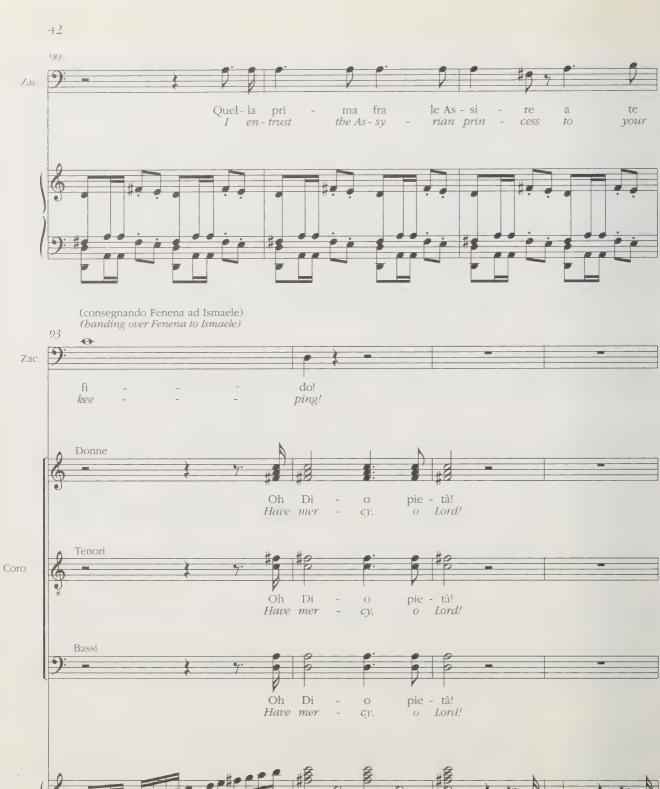


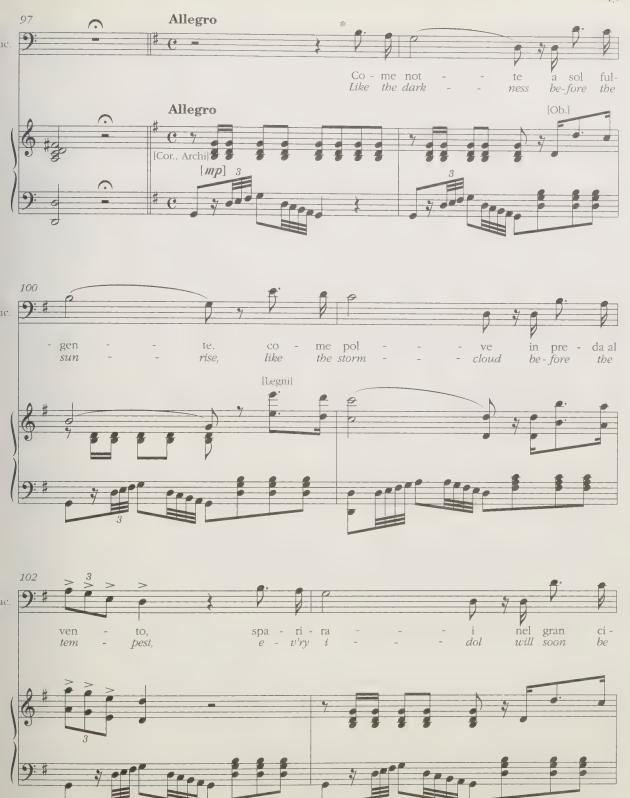




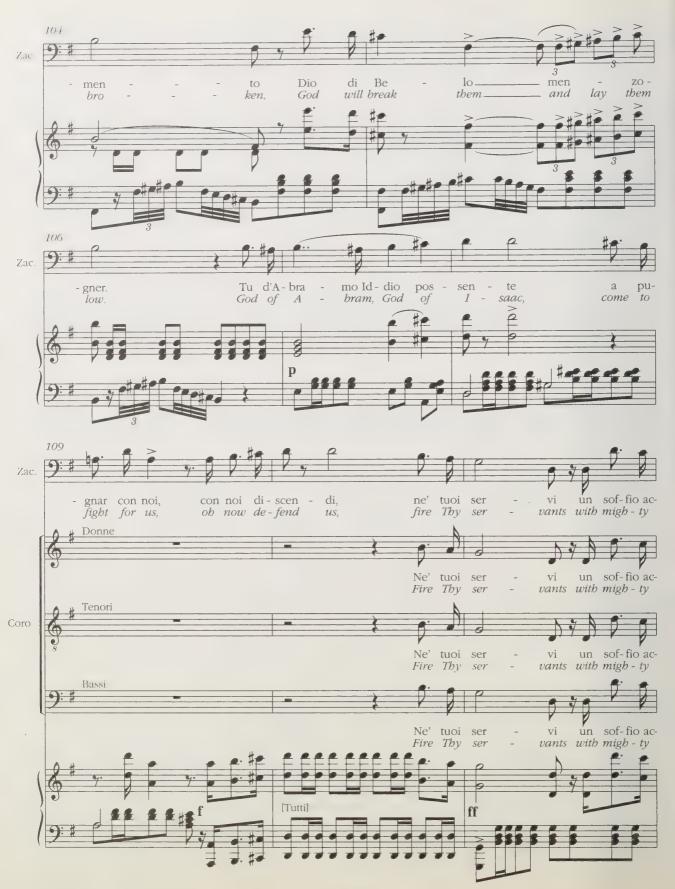


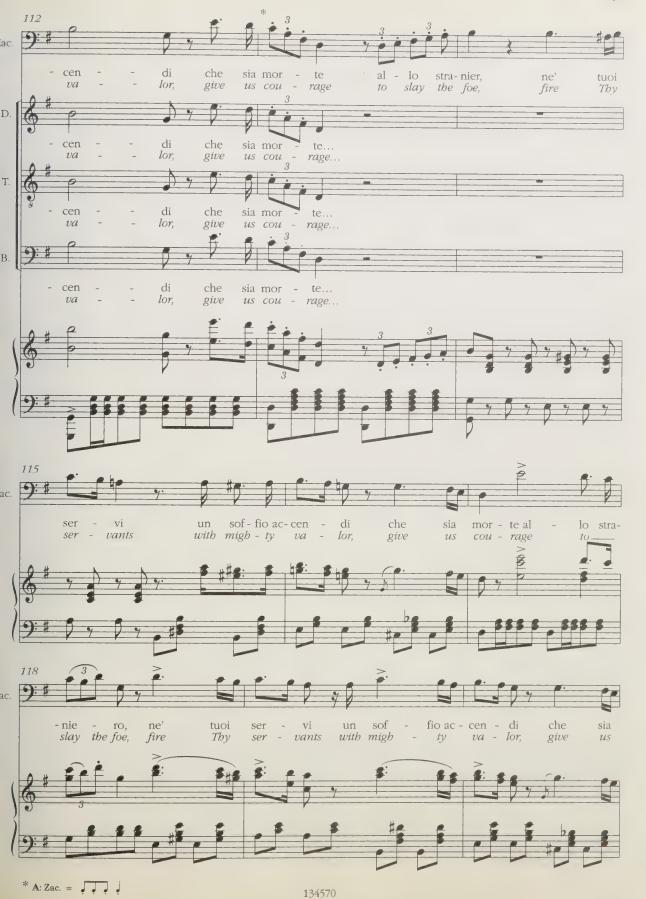






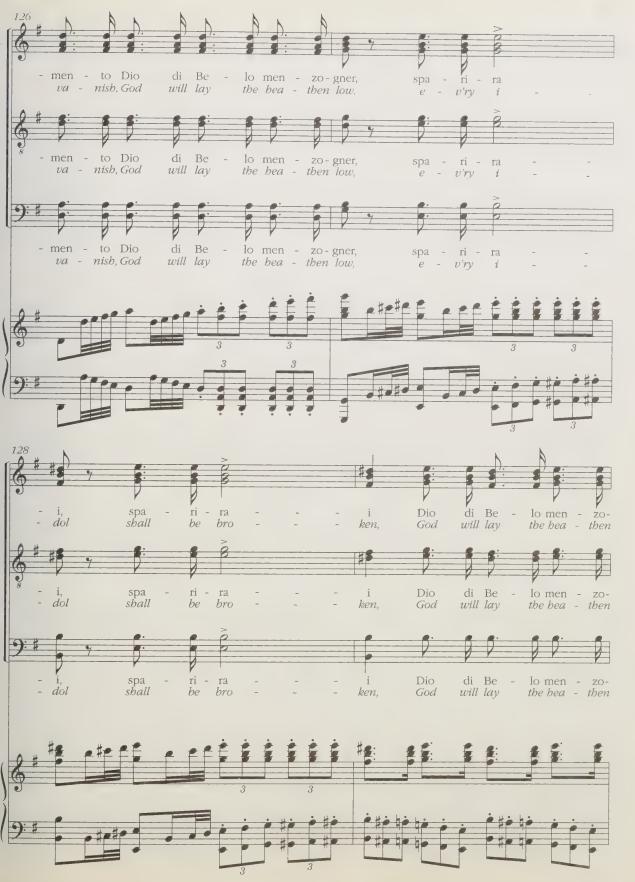
^{*} Per una precedente stesura della cabaletta, vedi l'Appendice 1A. An earlier draft of the cabaletta is given in Appendix 1A.

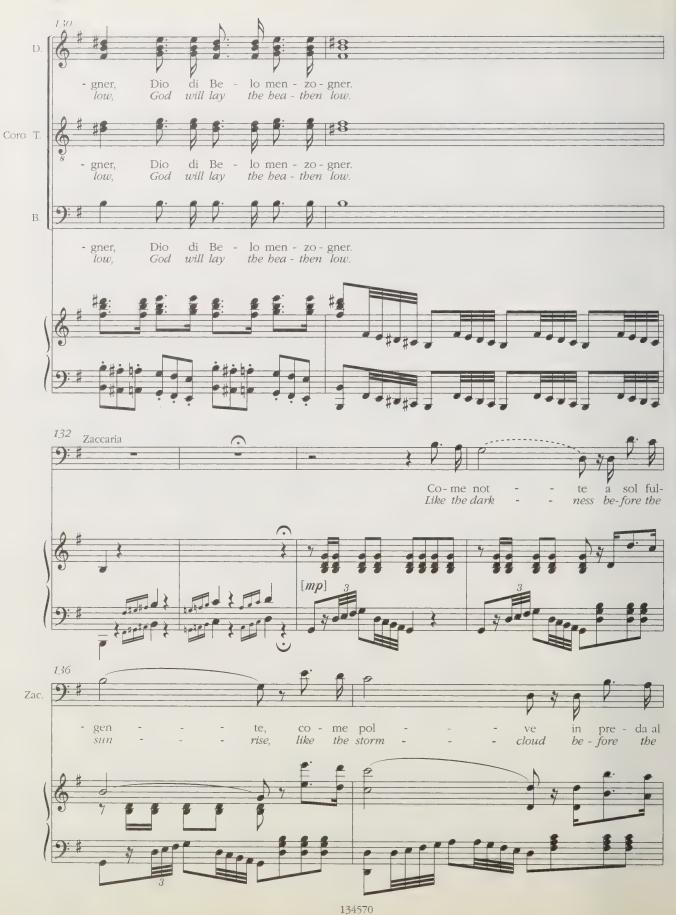


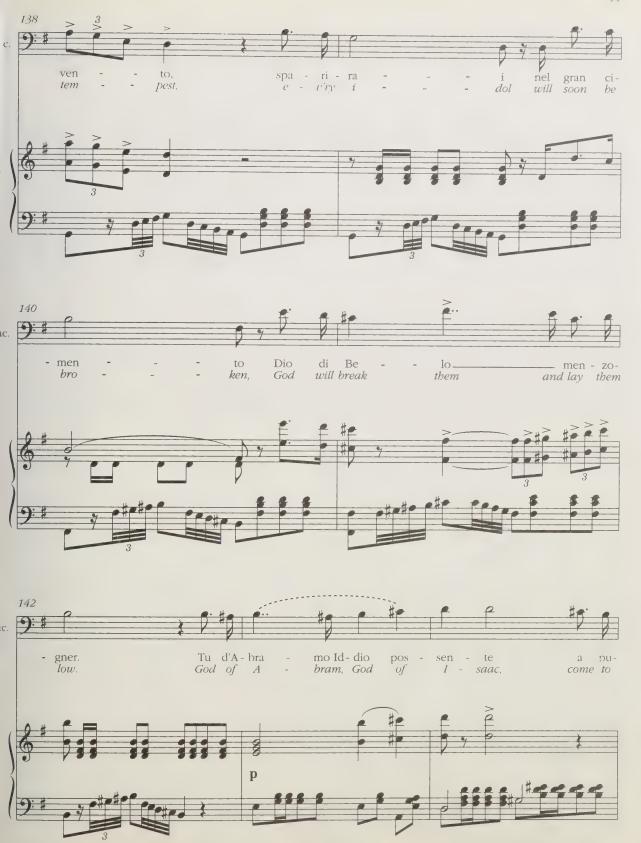


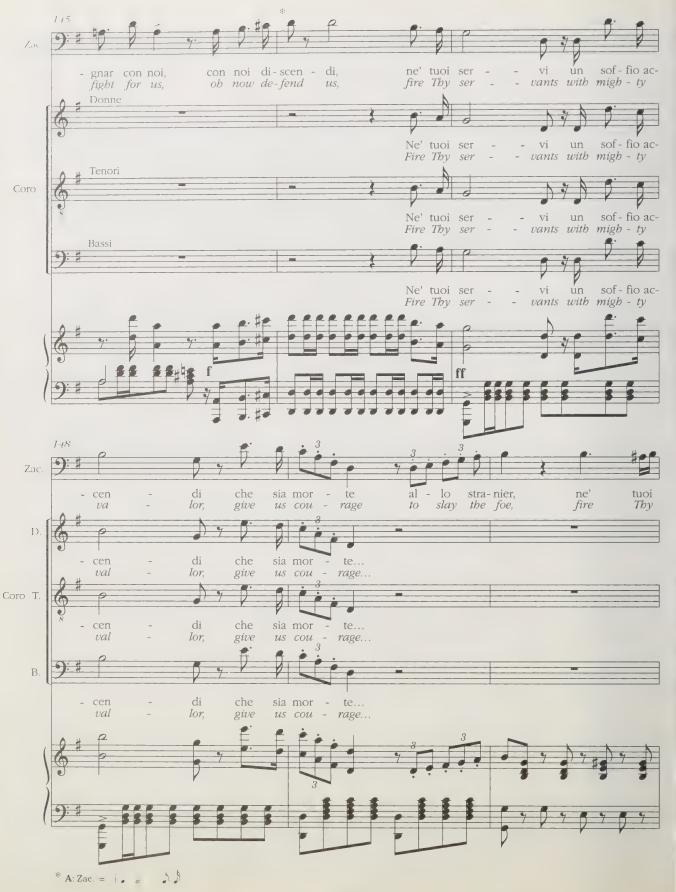




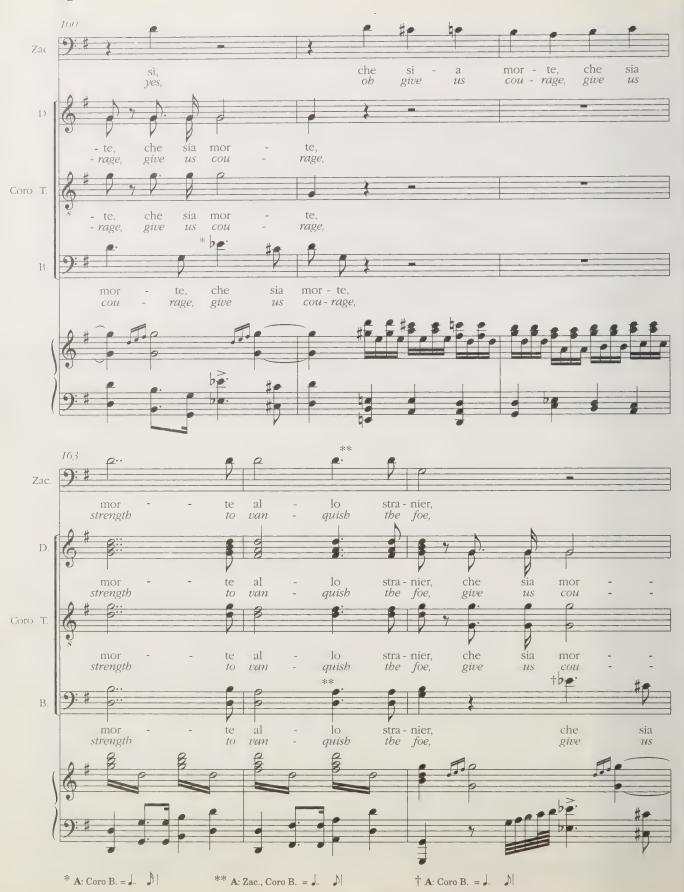


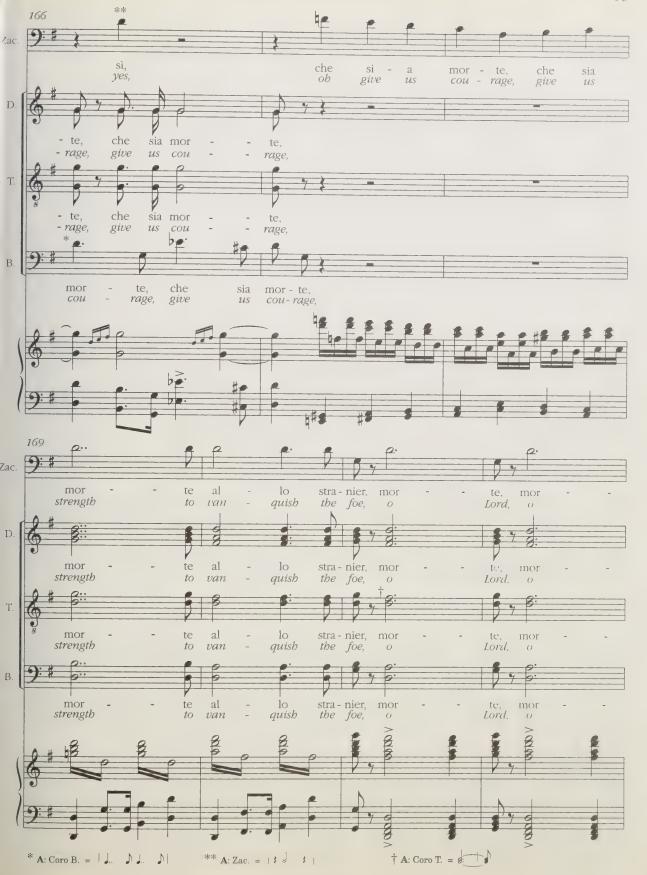




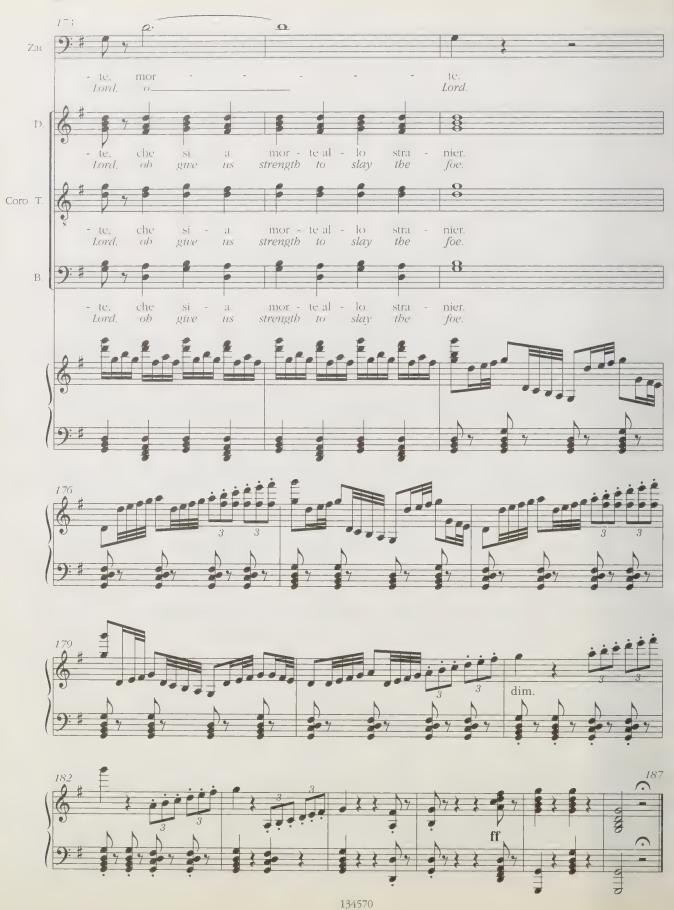










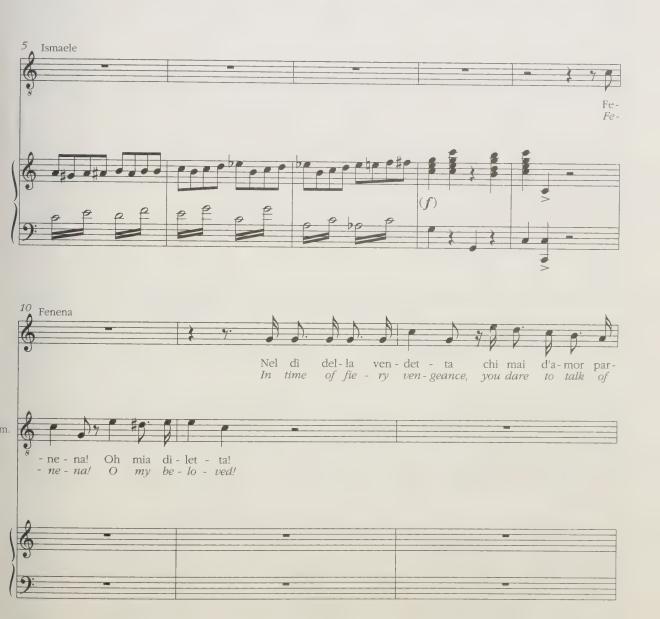


N. 3. Recitativo e Terzettino

N. 3. Recitative and Terzettino

(SCENA IV: Ismaele, Fenena) (SCENE IV: Ismaele, Fenena)

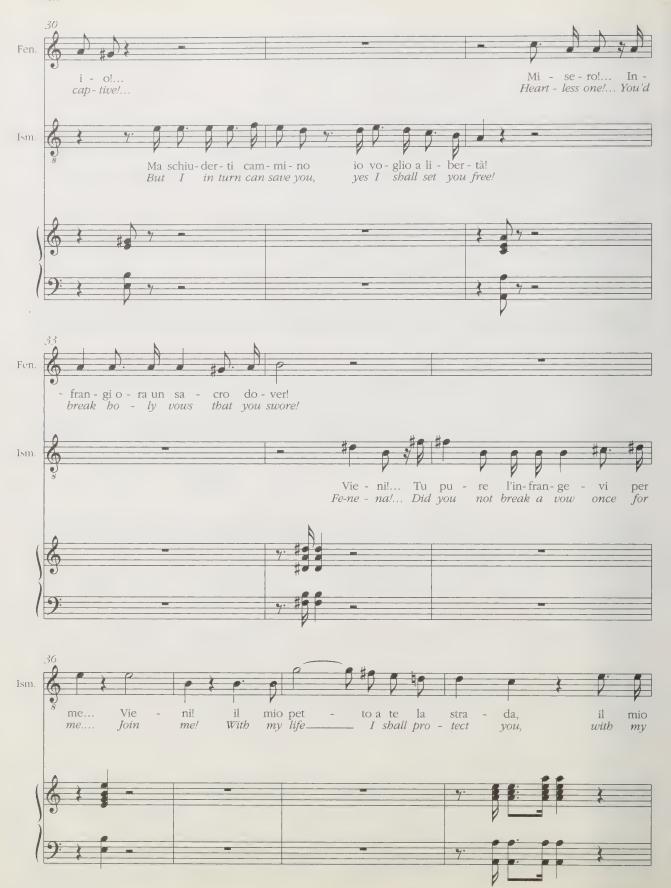










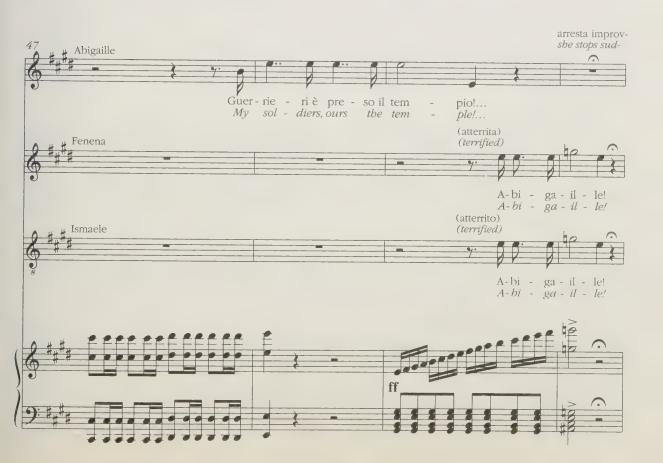




(SCENA V) (Mentre [Ismaele] fa per aprire una porta segreta) entra colla spada alla mano Abigaille, seguita da (alcuni) Guerrieri babilonesi celati in ebraiche vesti (SCENE V) (While [Ismaele] goes to open a secret door) Abigaille enters, sword in hand: she is followed by (several) Babylonian

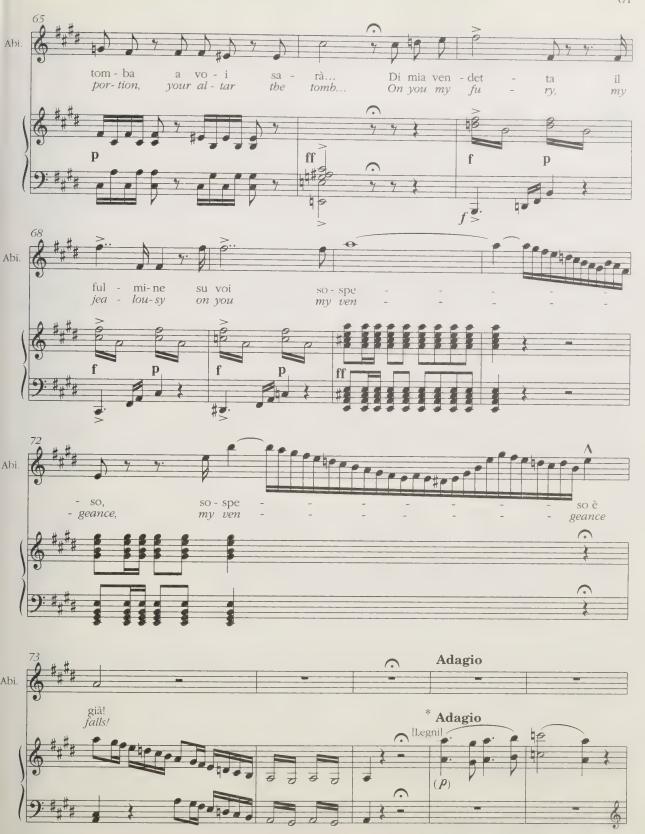
warriors disguised as Hebrews





visamente all'accorgersi de' due amanti indi con amaro sogghigno dice ad Ismaele denly on seeing the two lovers then with a bitter smile says to Ismaele

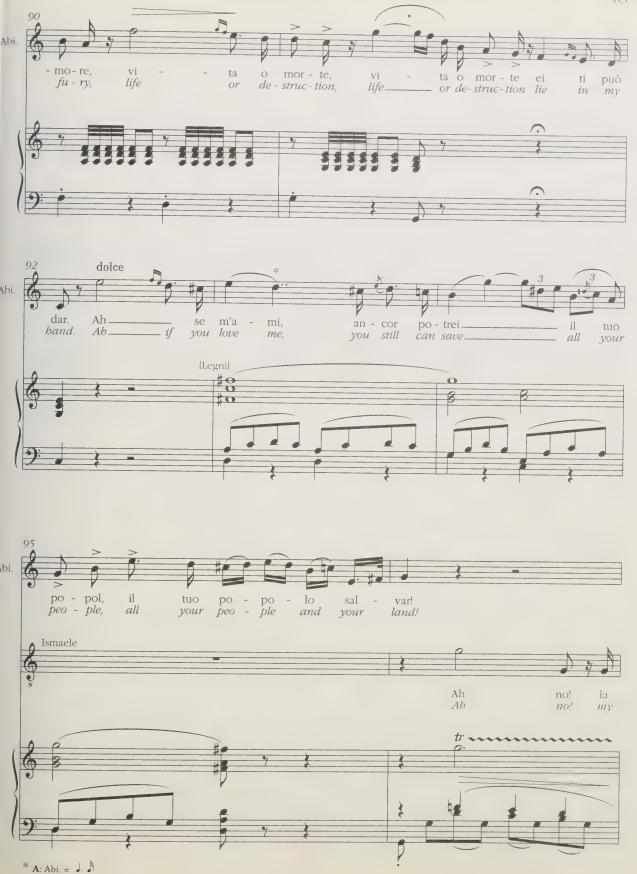




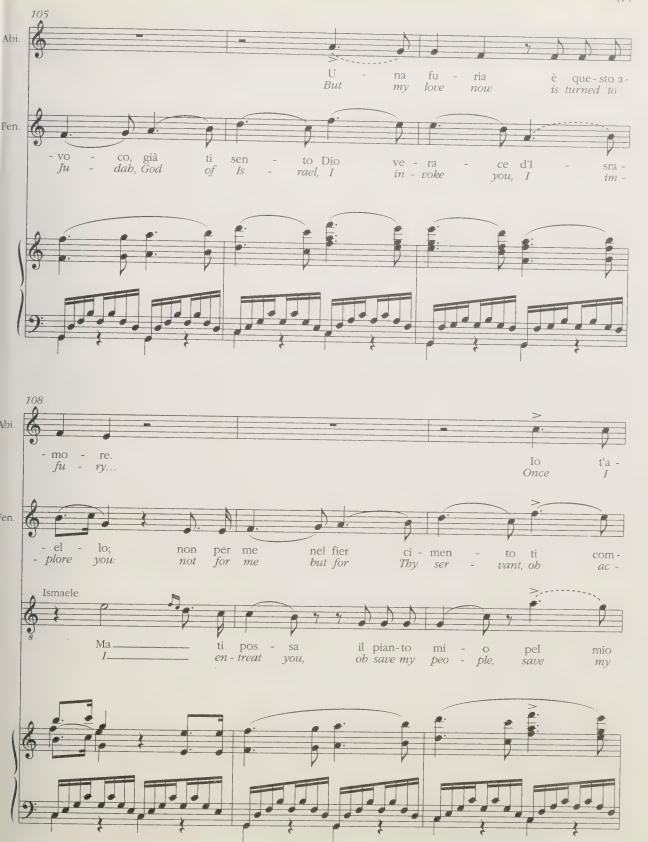
^{*} V scrisse qui anche "Andante": vedi Note. V also wrote "Andante" here: see Notes.

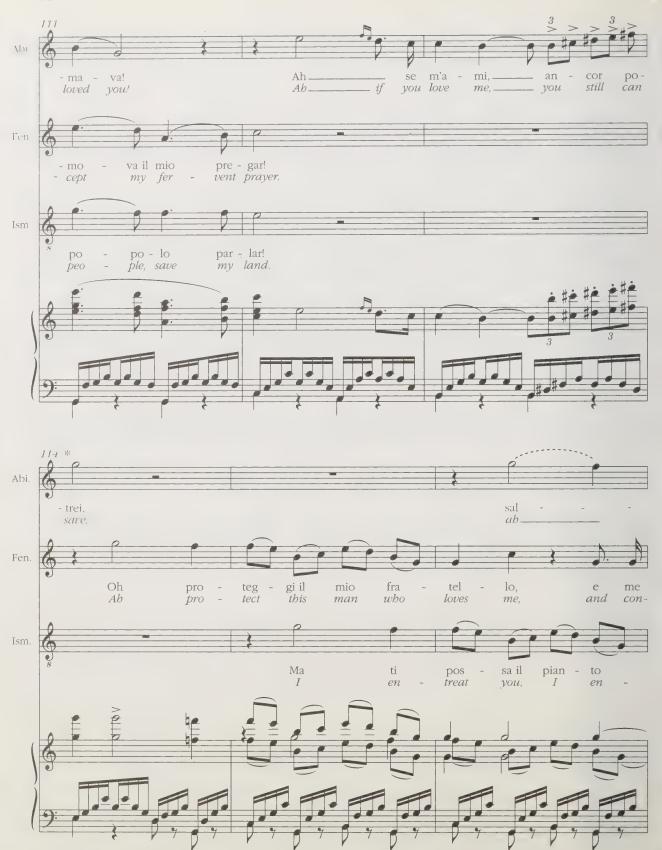


** MI⁴²: "(dopo breve pausa s'avvicina ad Ismaele e gli dice sottovoce)" "
"(after a short pause she approaches Ismaele and says to him softly)"

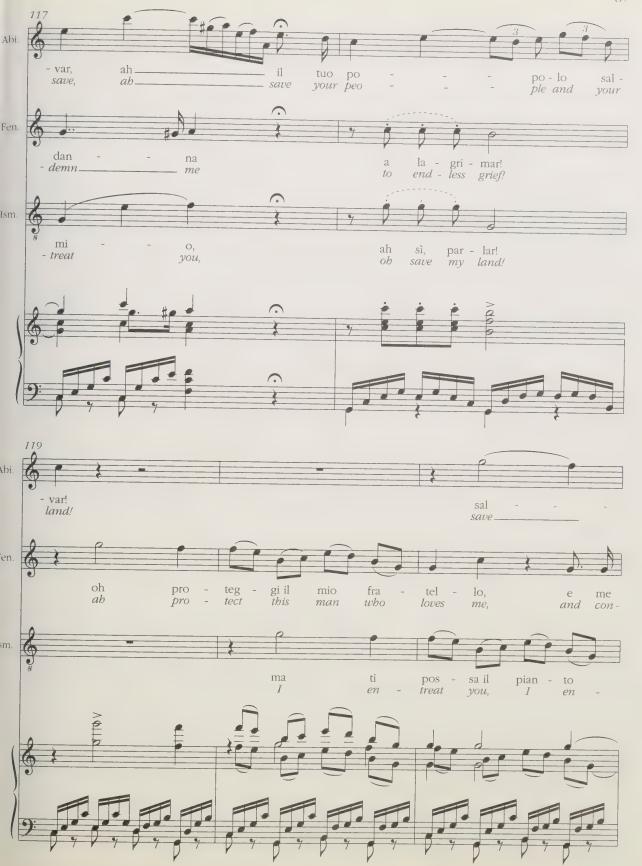








 $^{^{*}}$ La complessa storia della stesura delle parti vocali a 114-123 viene spiegata nelle Note. The complex history of the vocal parts at 114-123 is explained in the Notes.









N. 4. Finale Parte prima

N. 4. Finale I

(SCENA VI: Donne, Uomini ebrei, Leviti guerrieri che a parte a parte entrano nel tempio non abbadando ai suddetti, indi Zaccaria ed Anna)

(SCENE VI: Hebrew men and women, Levite warriors who gradually enter ignoring the characters already on stage, then Zaccaria and Anna)

Allegro agitatissimo

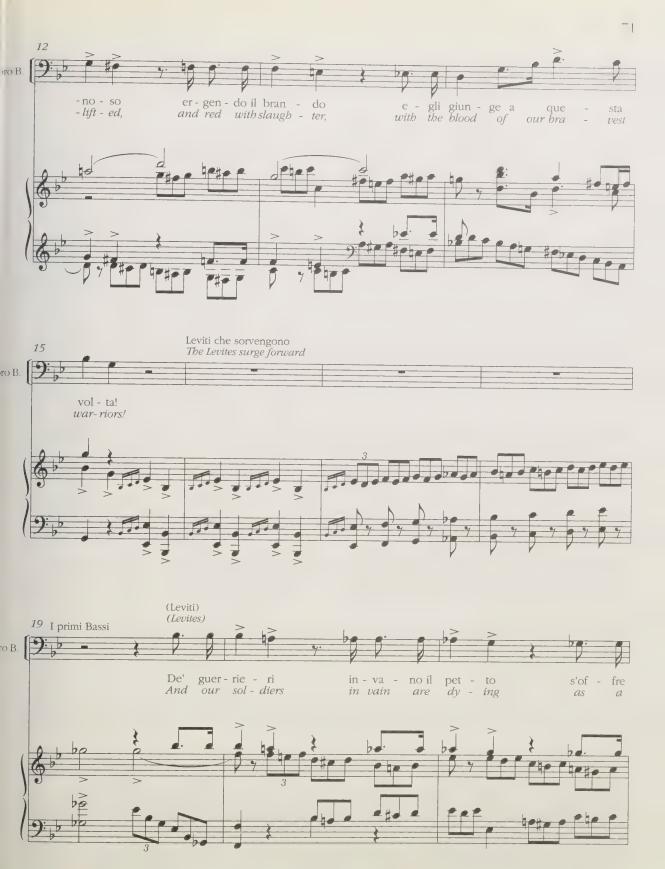


Donne ebree entrando precipitosamente Hebrew women entering precipitously

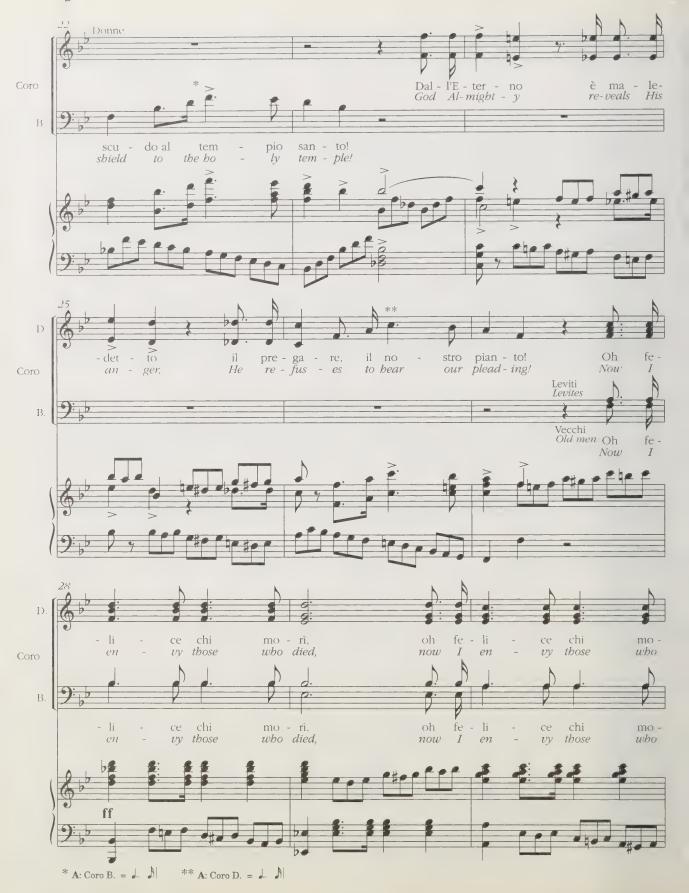


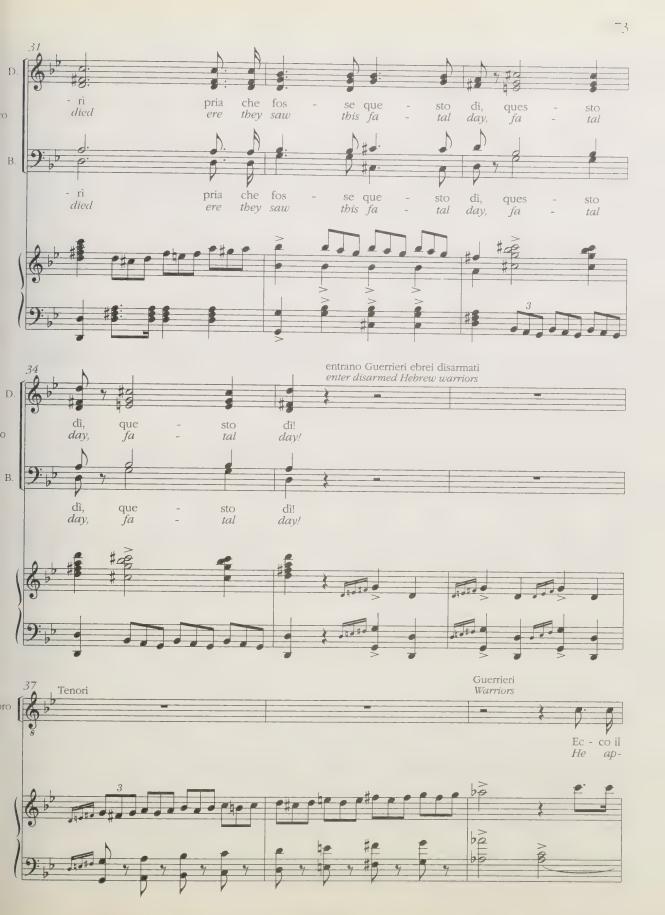




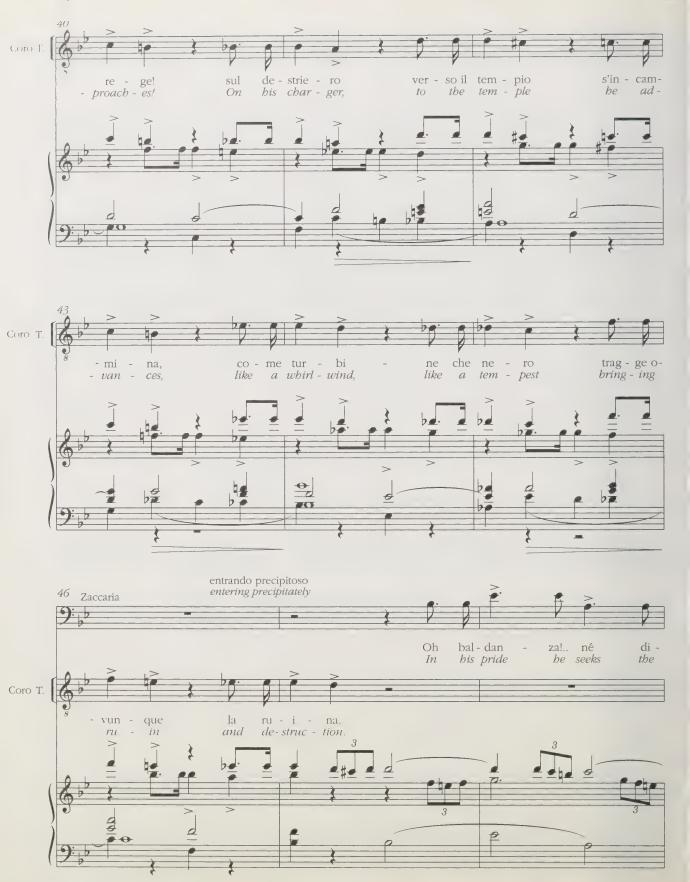














ri - dor! ked sword!



* A. A 52-70, Verdi prescrive a Zac. di cantare "col [Primo] Basso del Coro". For 52-70, Verdi instructed Zac. to sing "col [Primo] Basso del Coro".

- scen

tem

de dal

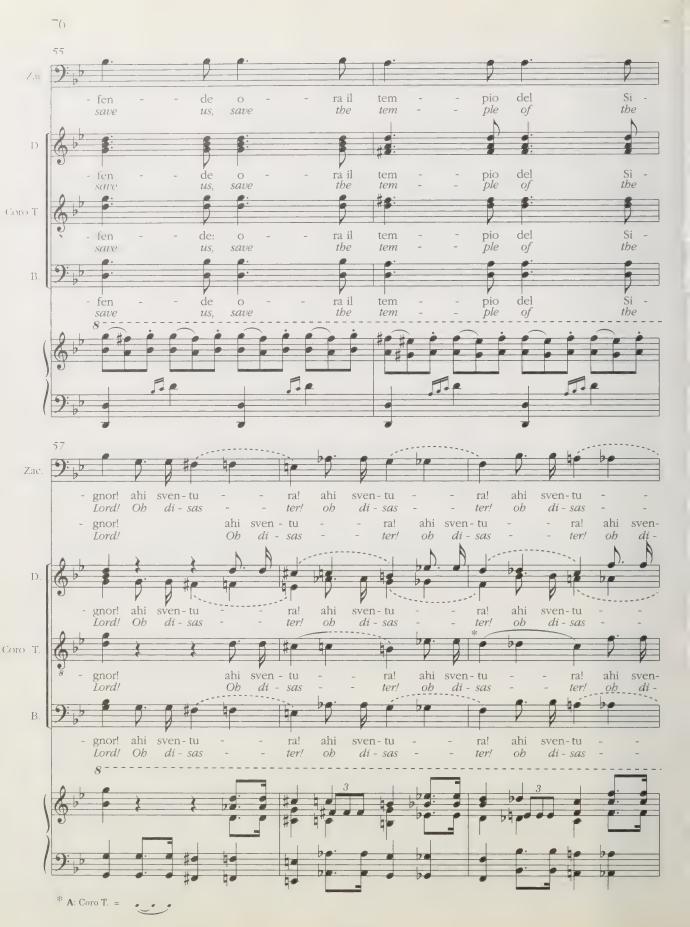
ple on

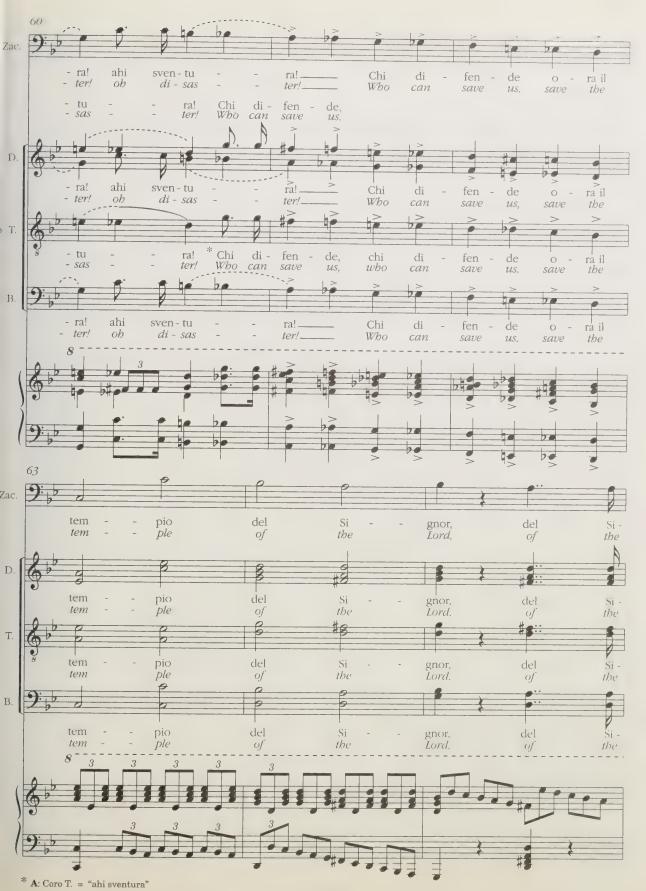
fe - ro bis borse,

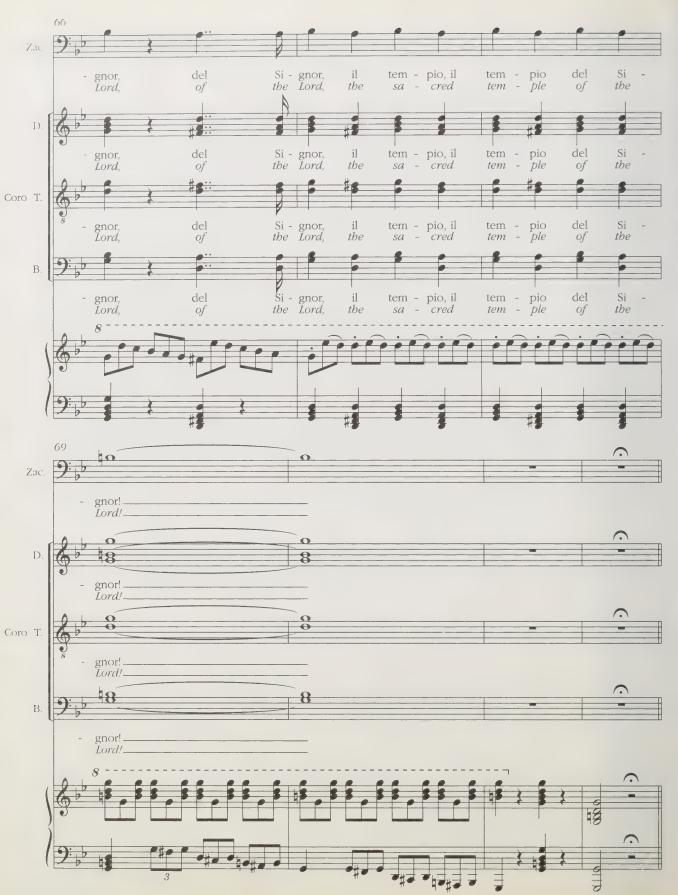
ce cor

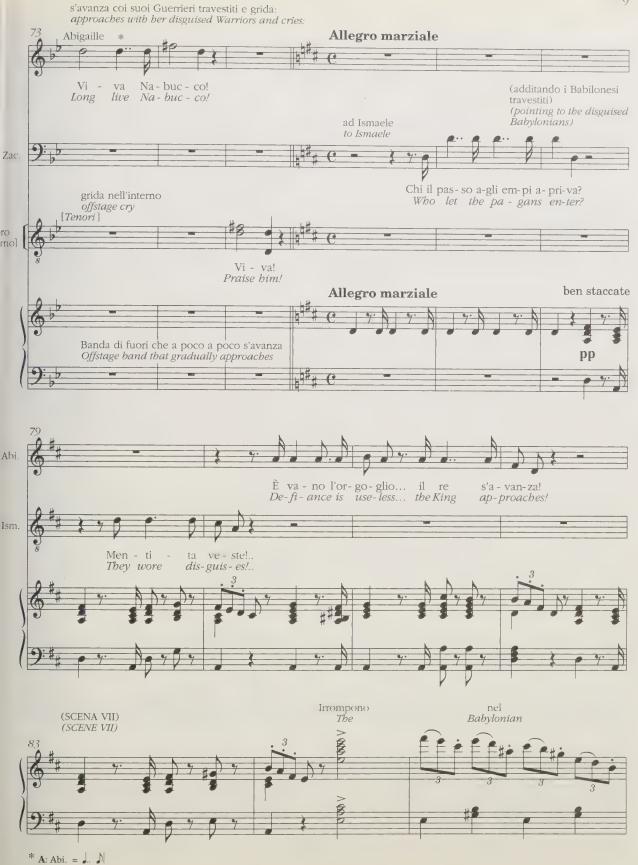
with na

ff



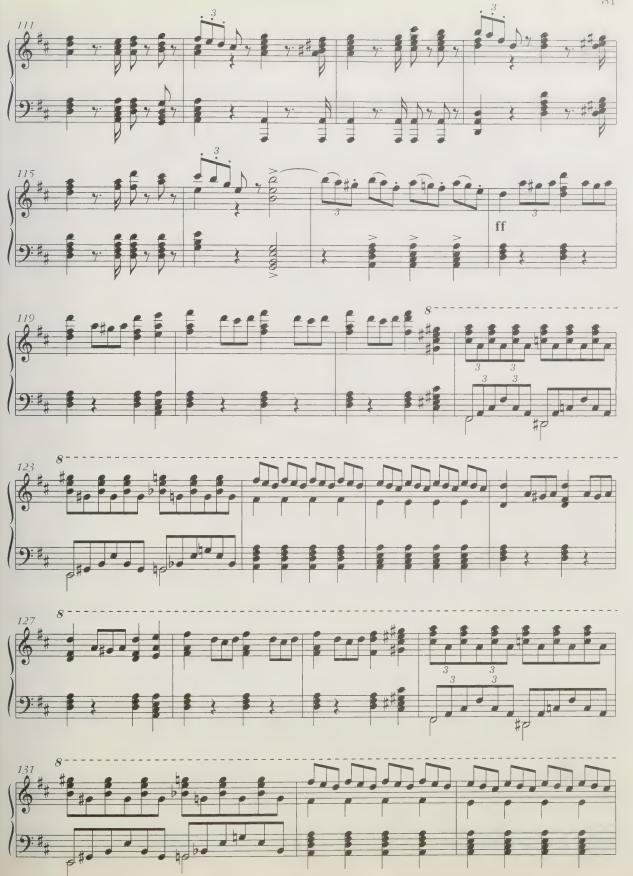




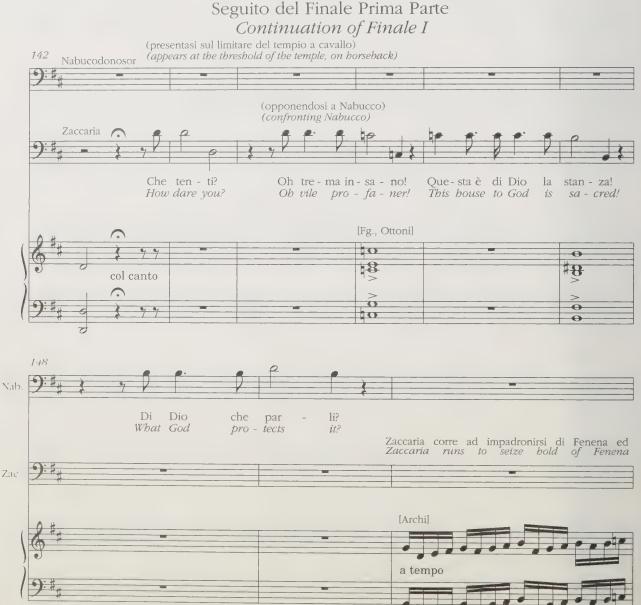








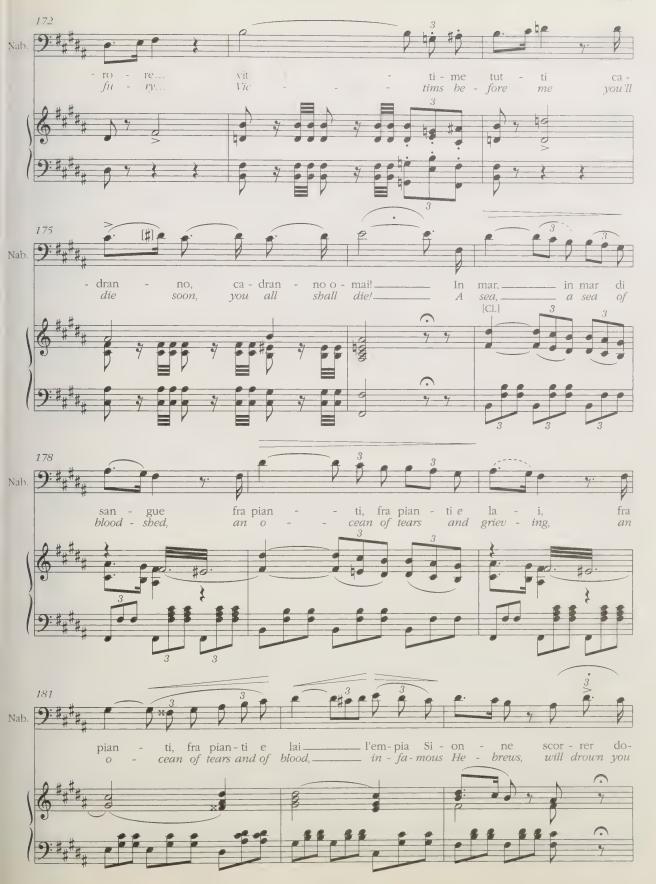


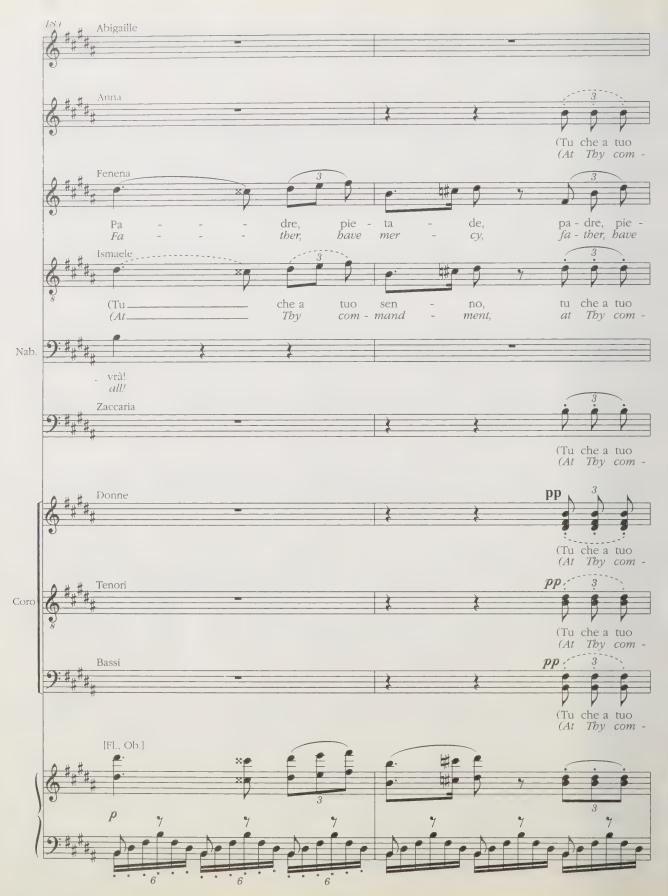






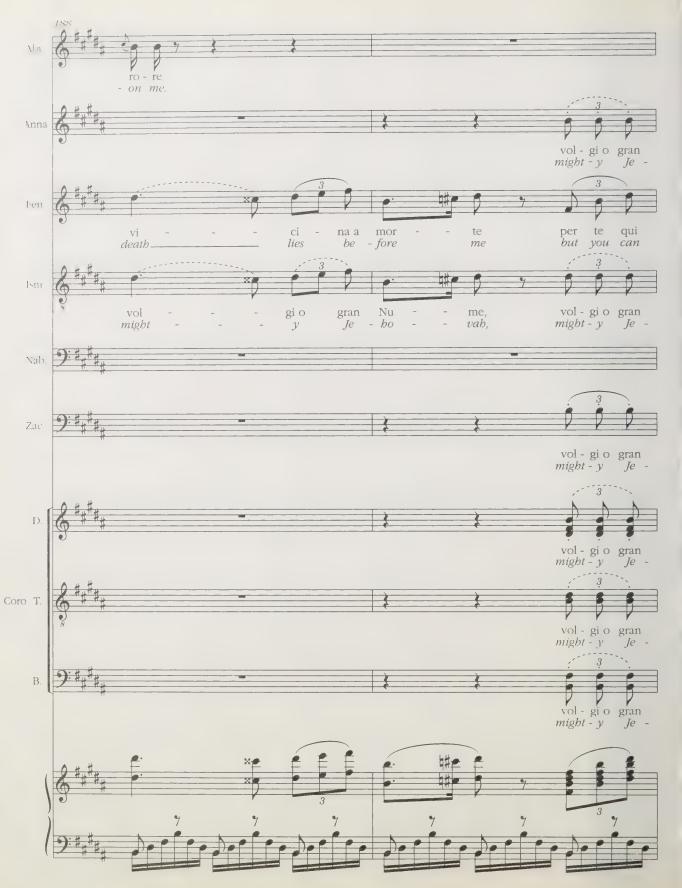


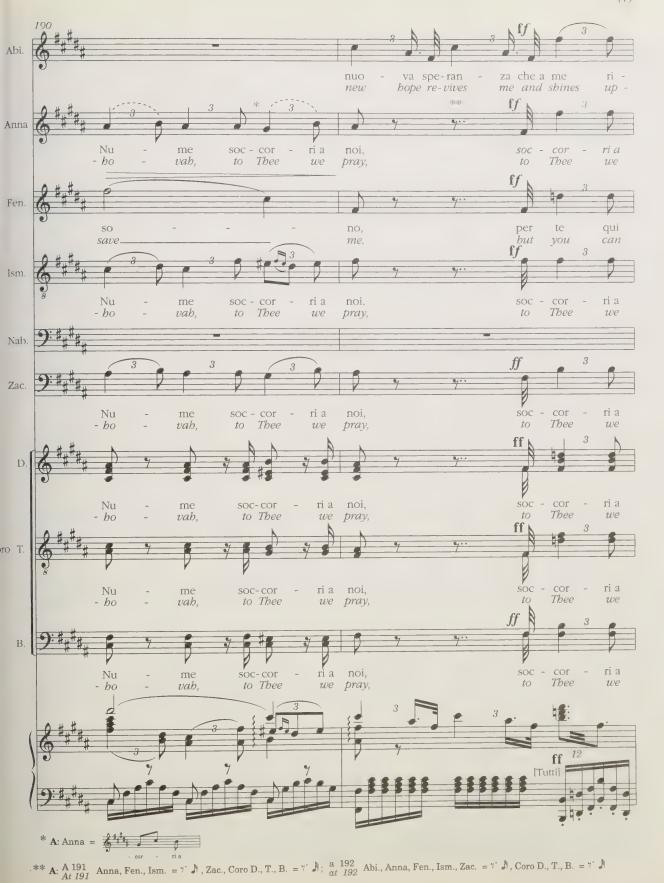


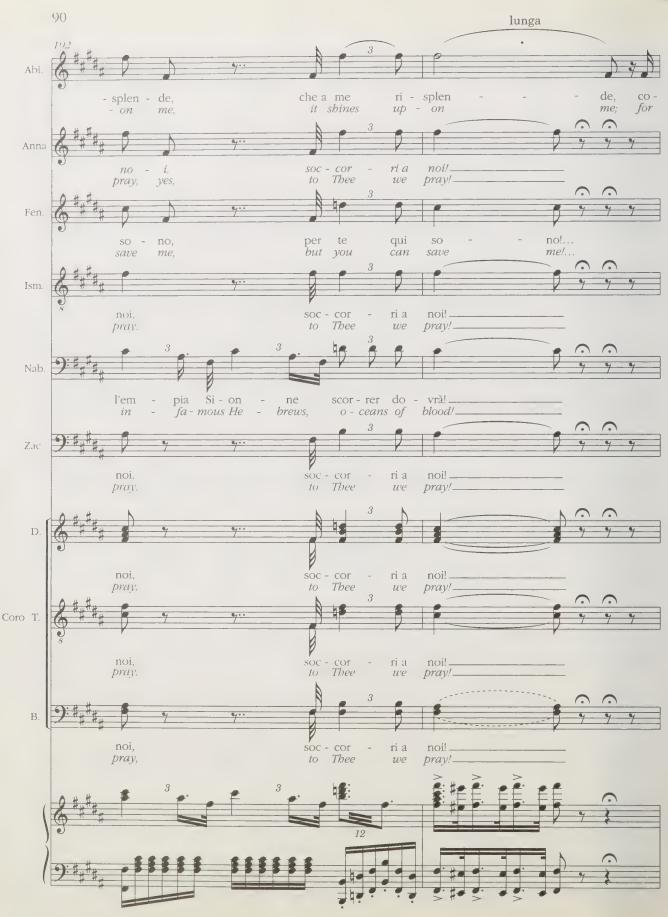




* A: Anna = 🕽 🕴



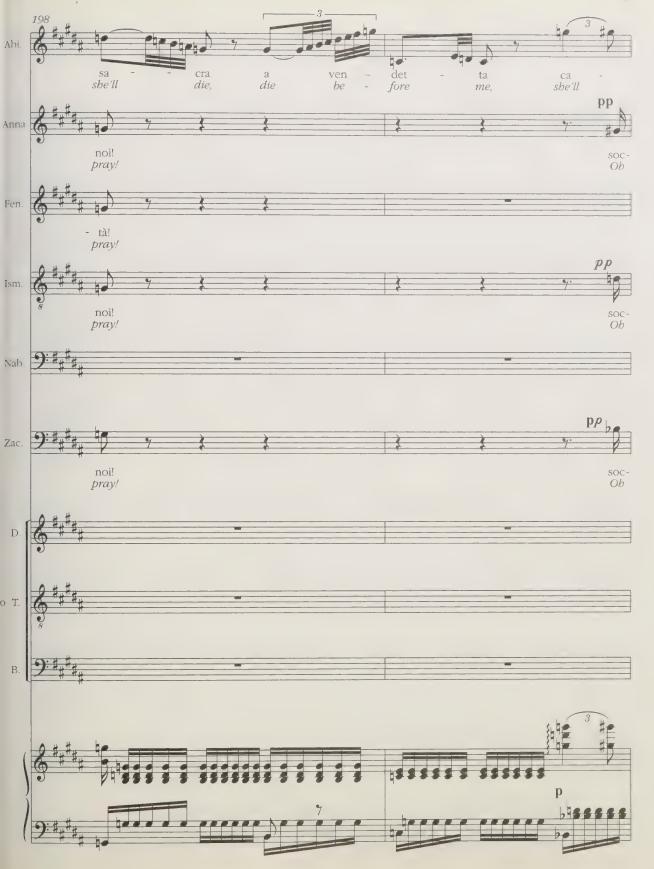




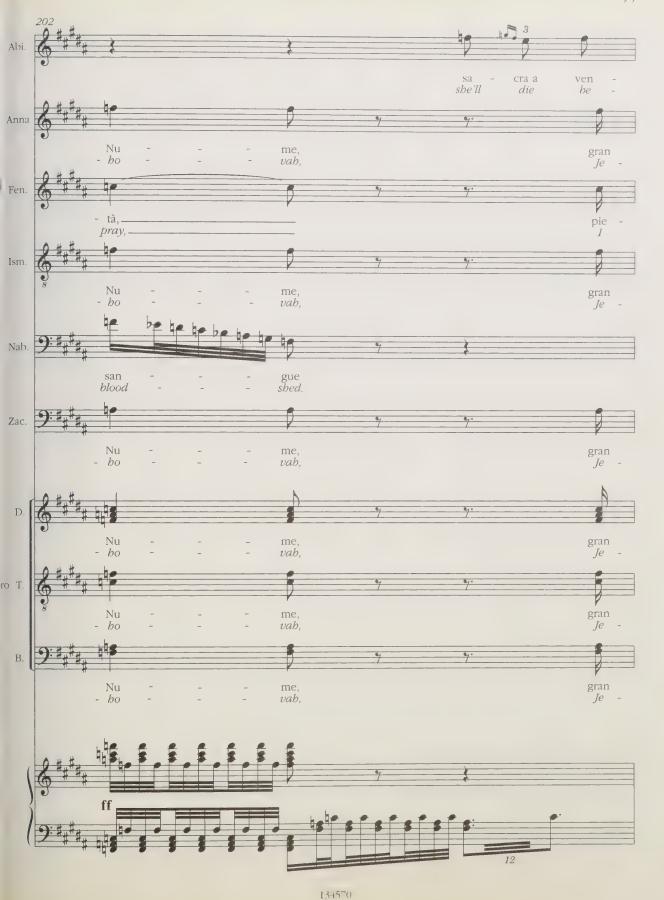


* A: Nab. = "cadrà"

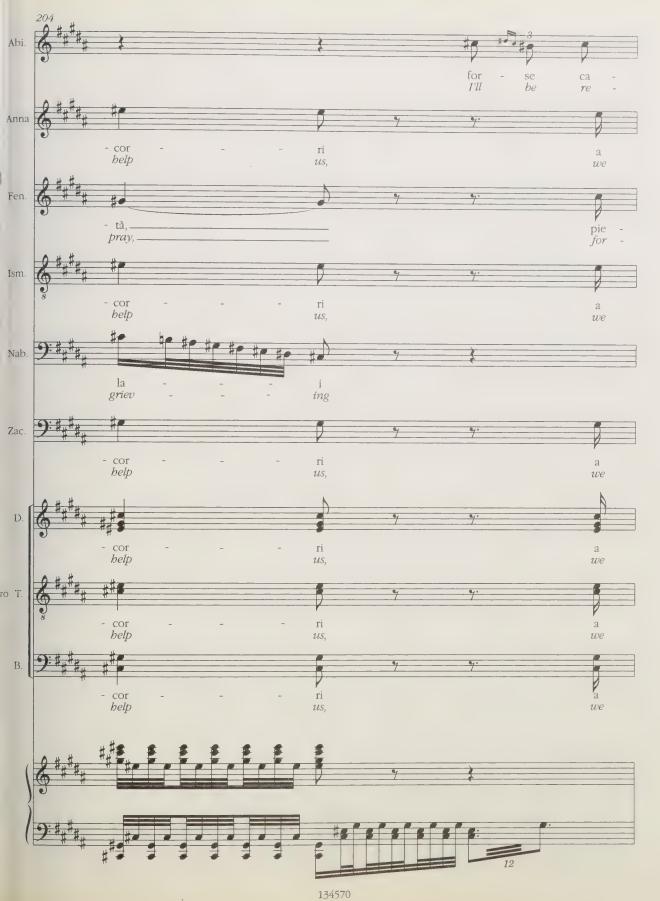


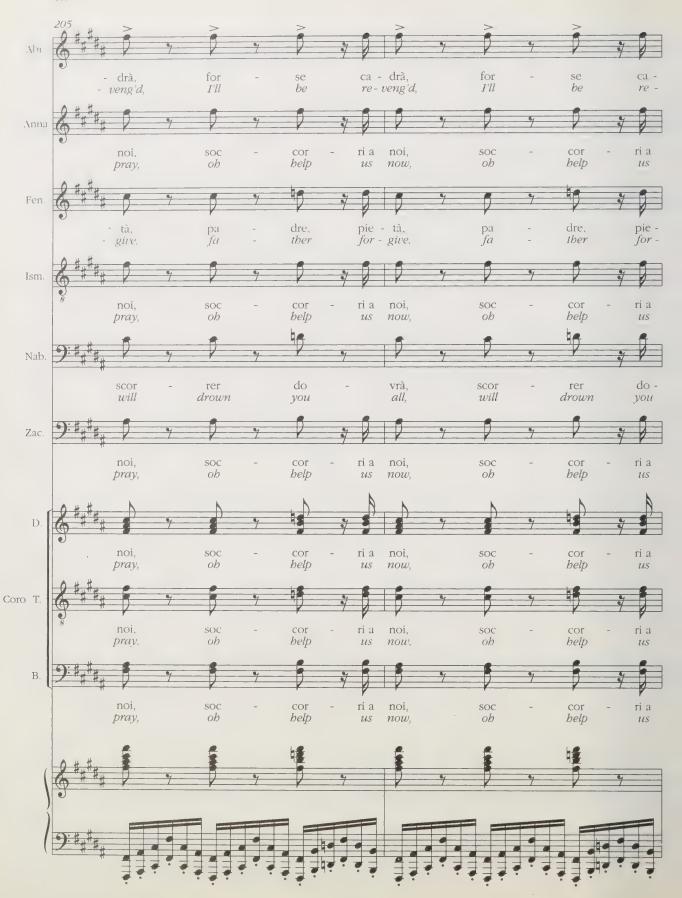


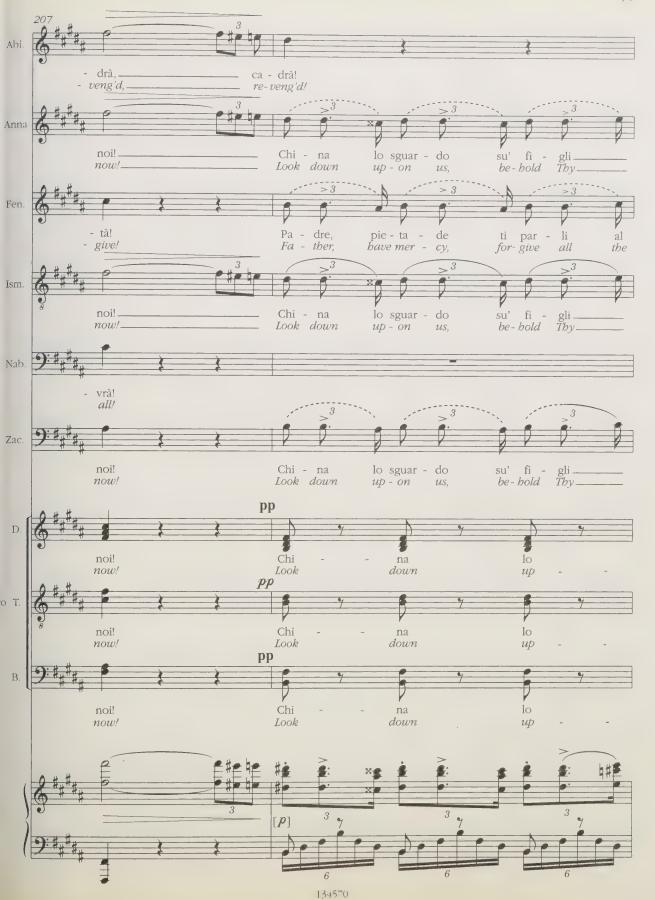


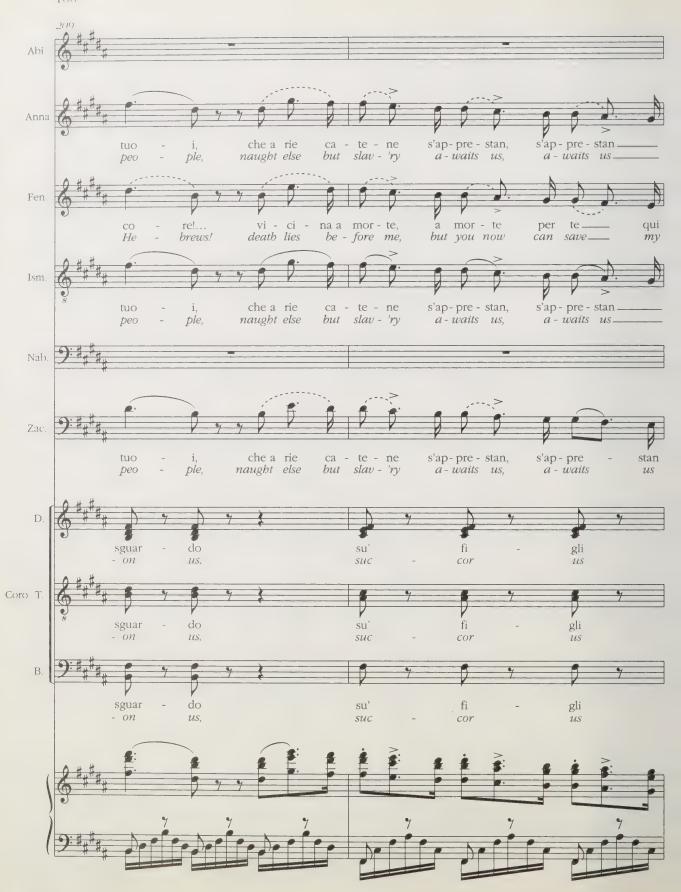


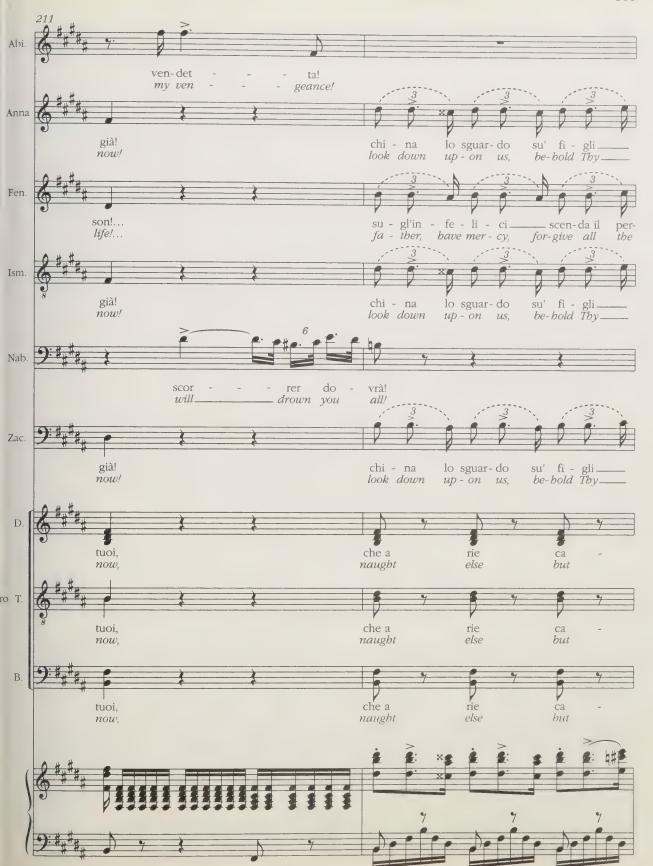


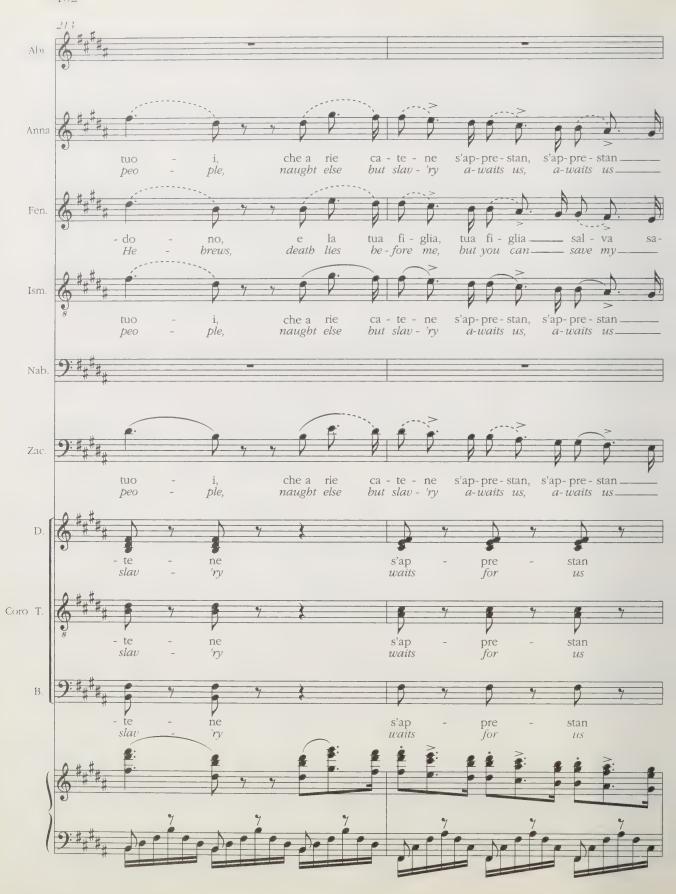


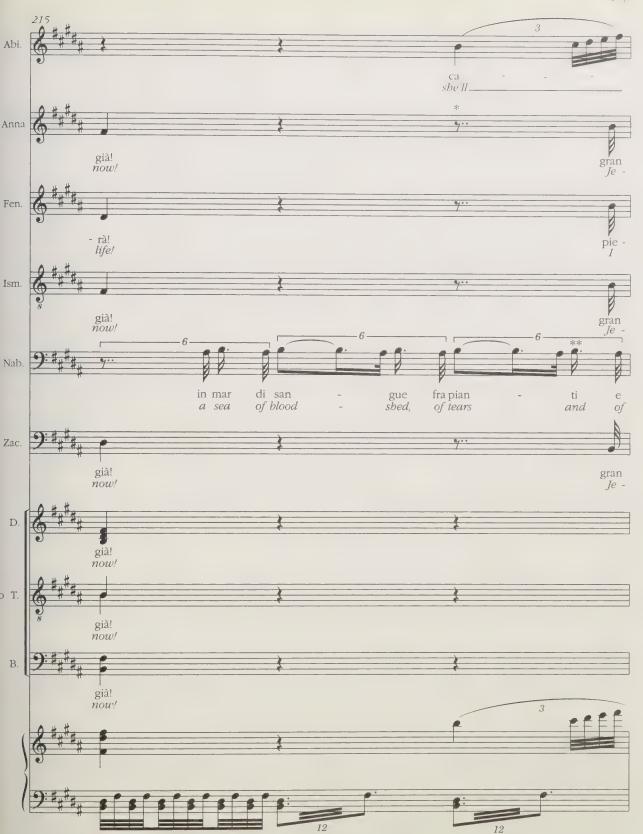








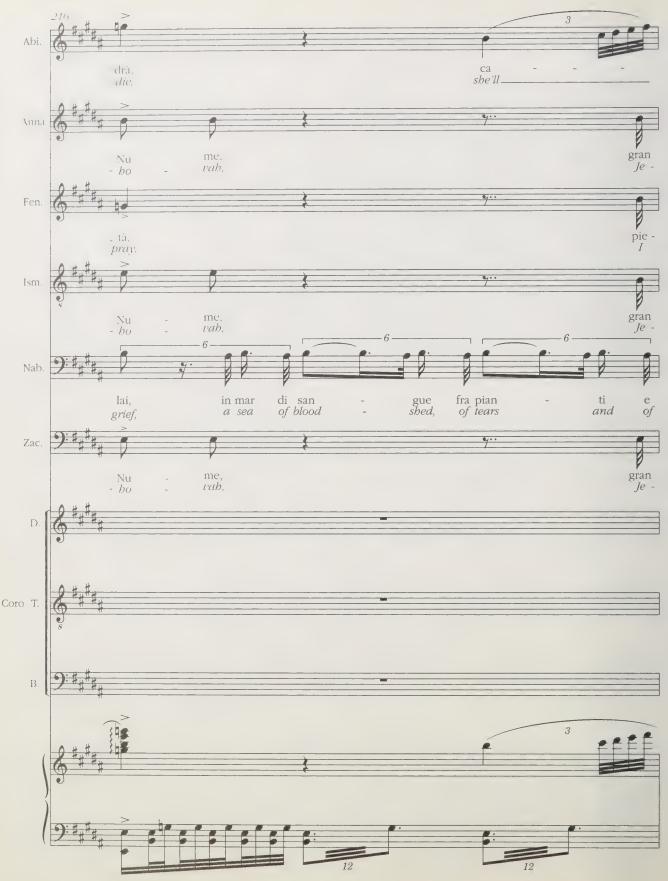


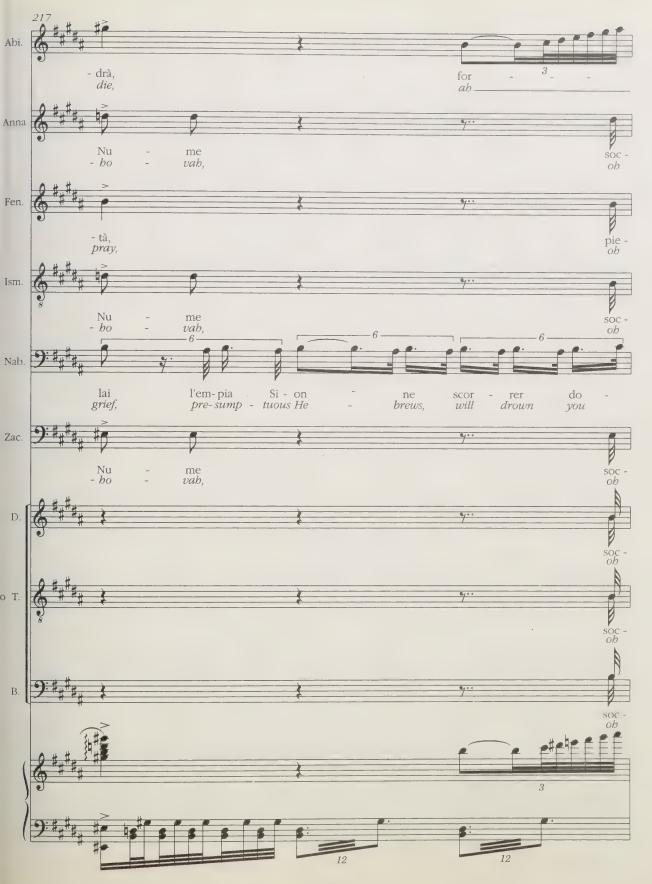


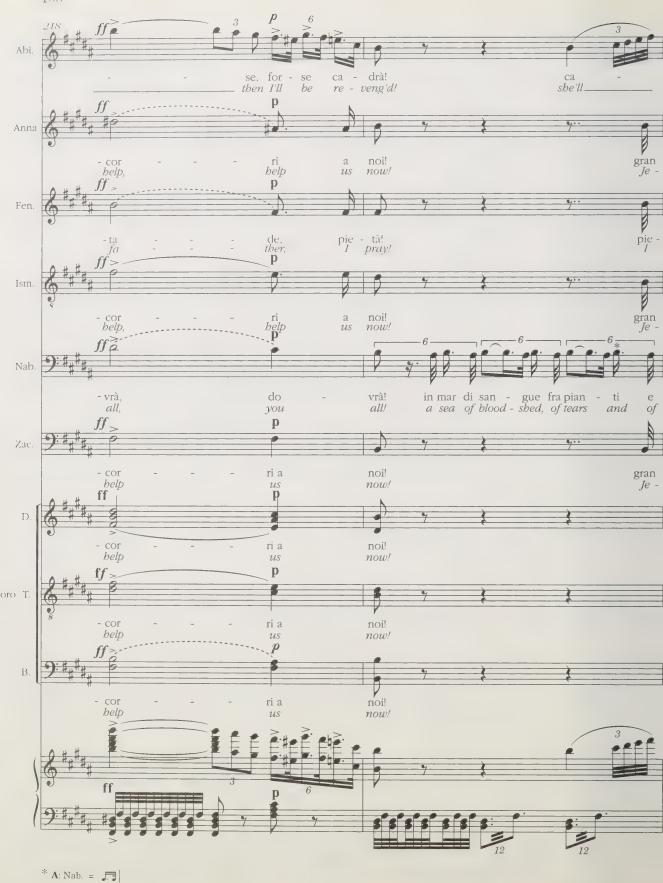
* A 215-217 e 219-221, V scrisse le figurazioni in levare o come 7 \$\mathbb{I}\$ o come 7 \$\mathbb{I}\$; vedi Note.

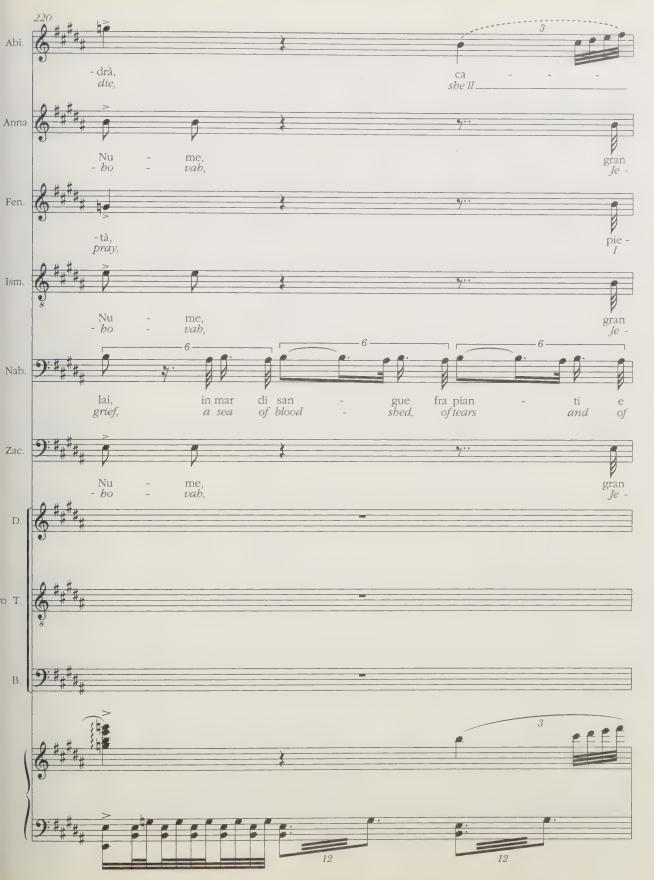
At 215-217 and 219-21, V wrote the upbeat figures as 7 \$\mathbb{I}\$ or as 7 \$\mathbb{I}\$; see Notes.

** A: Nab. = \$\mathbb{I}\$ |







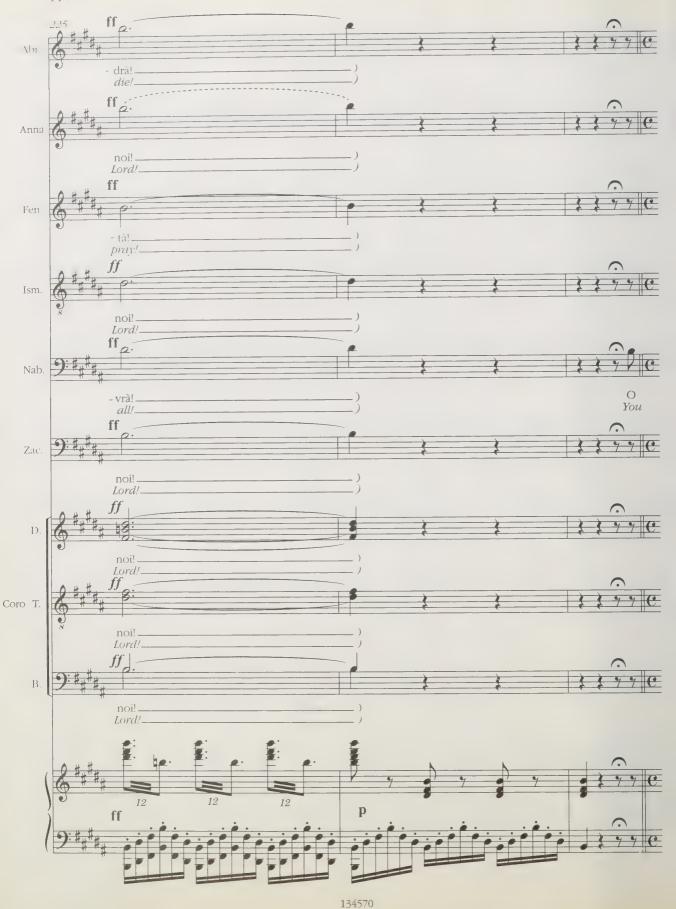


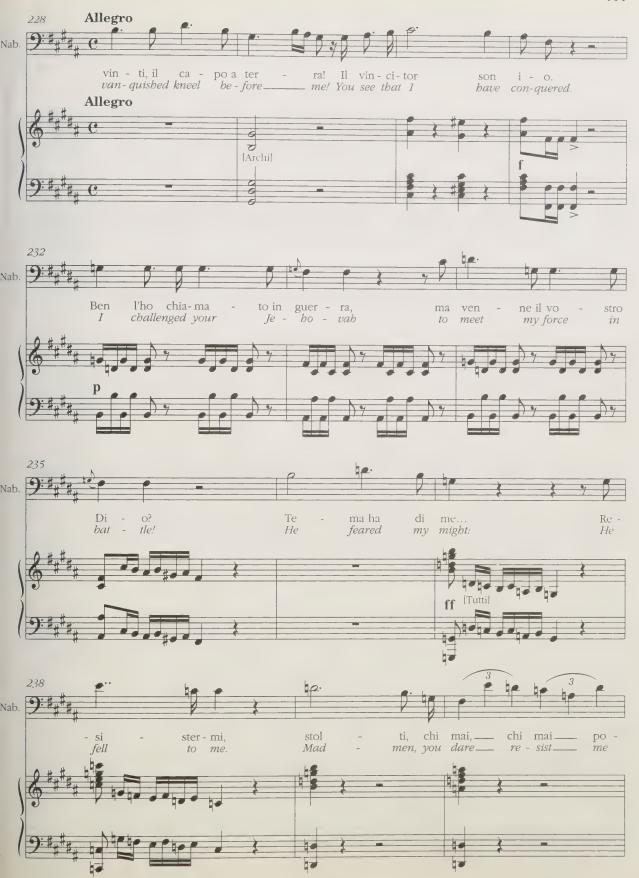
134570

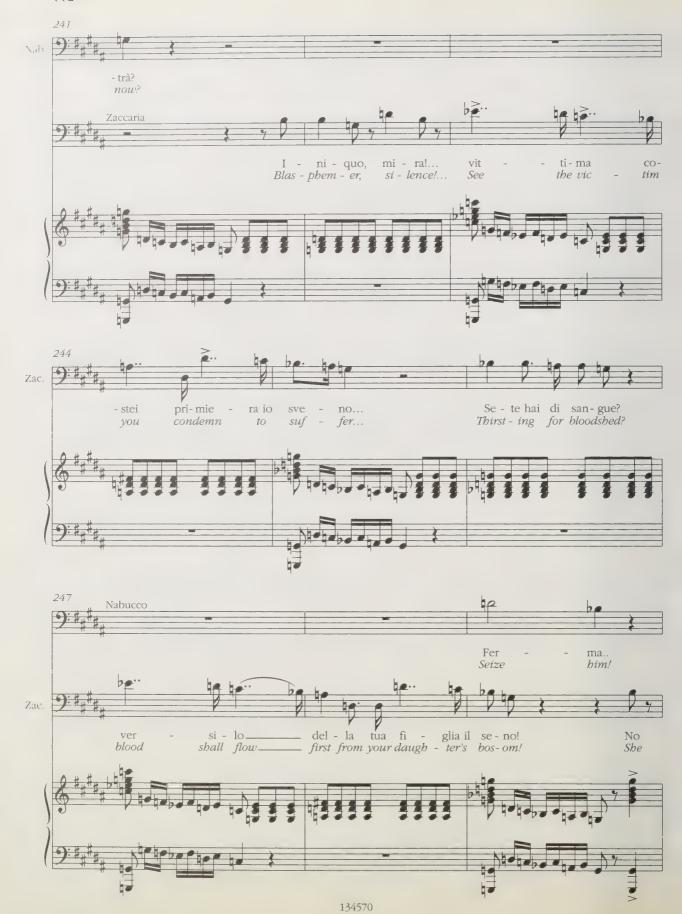


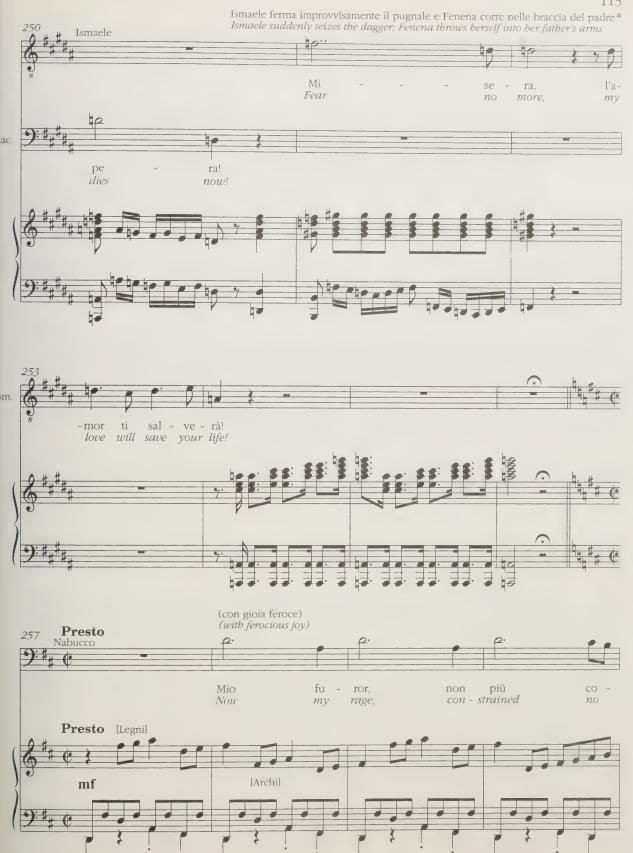
* A: Ism. = J |; cfr. 218 e vedi Note. cf. 218 and see Notes.





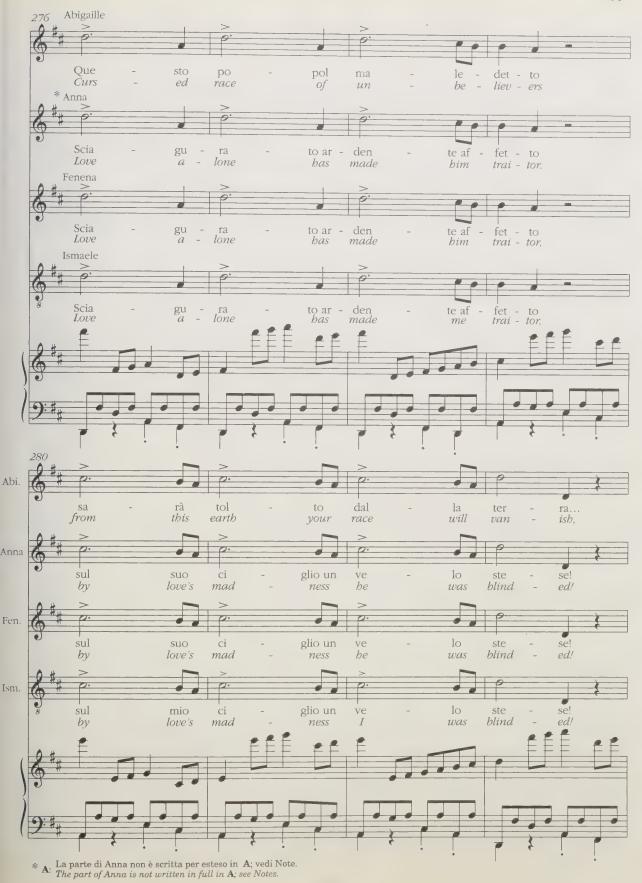


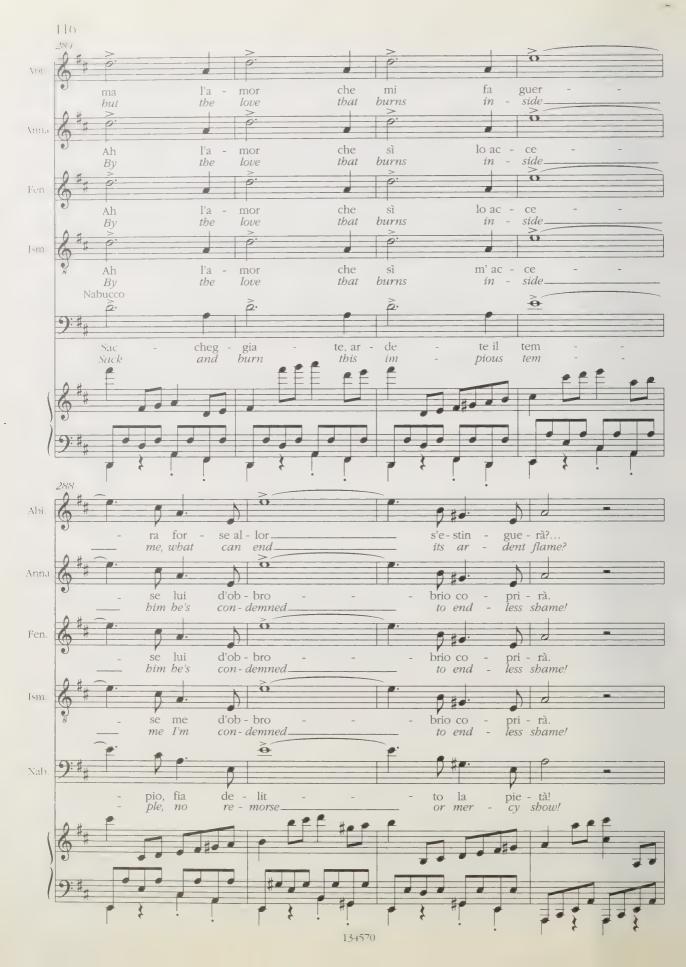


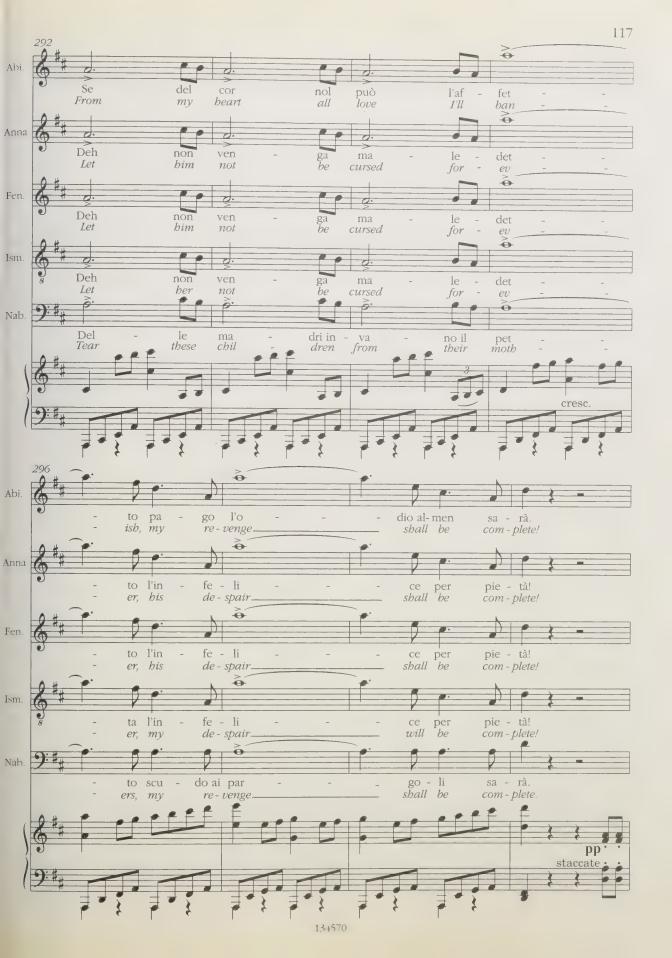


* MI⁴². "(ferma improvvisamente il pugnale e libera Fenena che si getta nelle braccia del padre)" (suddenly seizes the dagger and frees Fenena, who throws herself into her father's arms)"

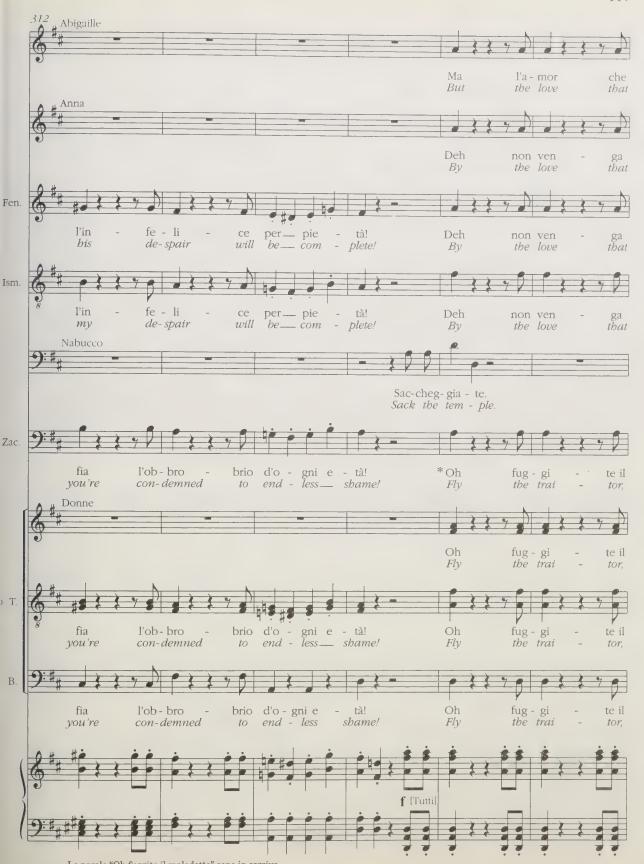


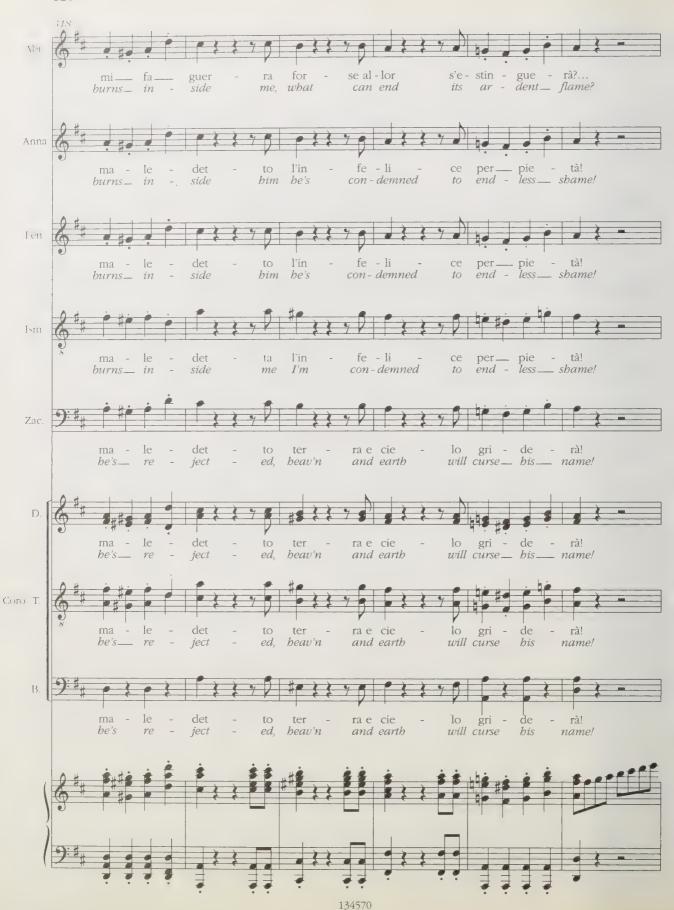


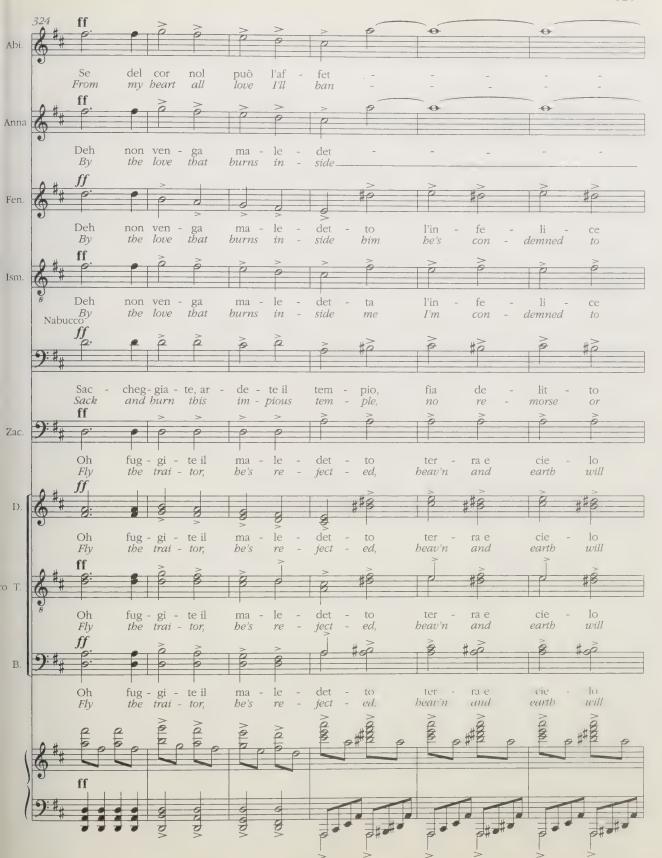


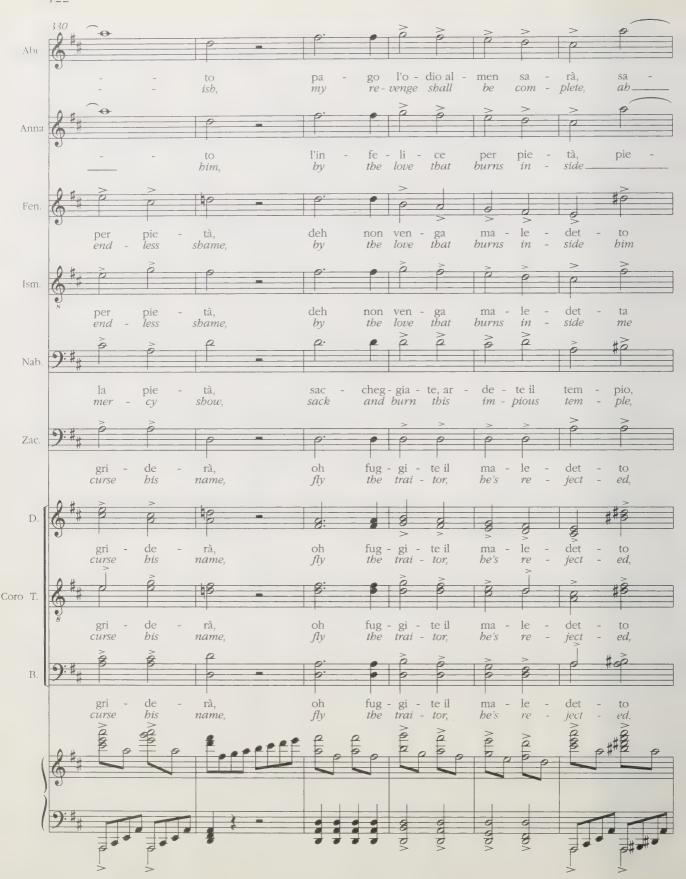


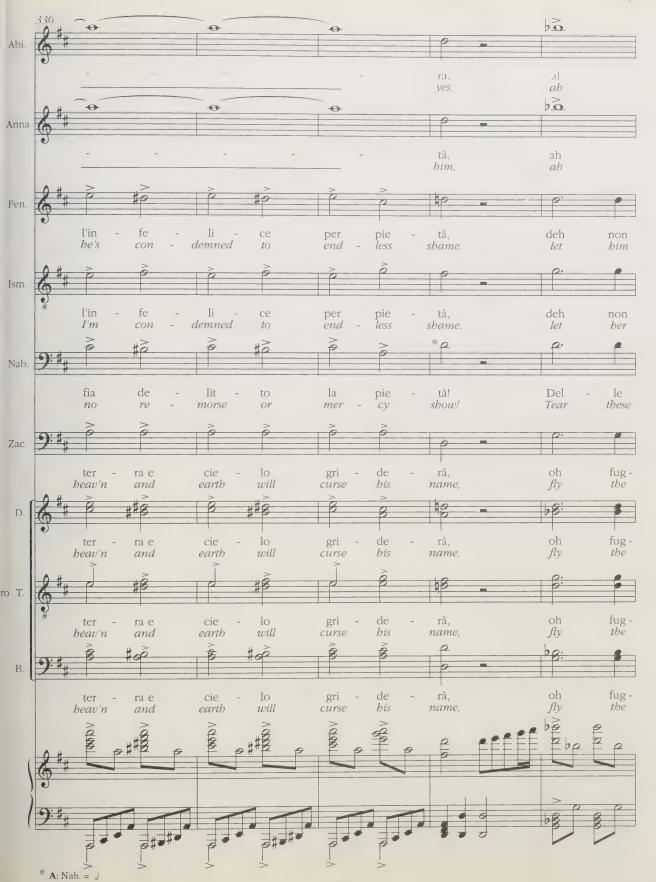




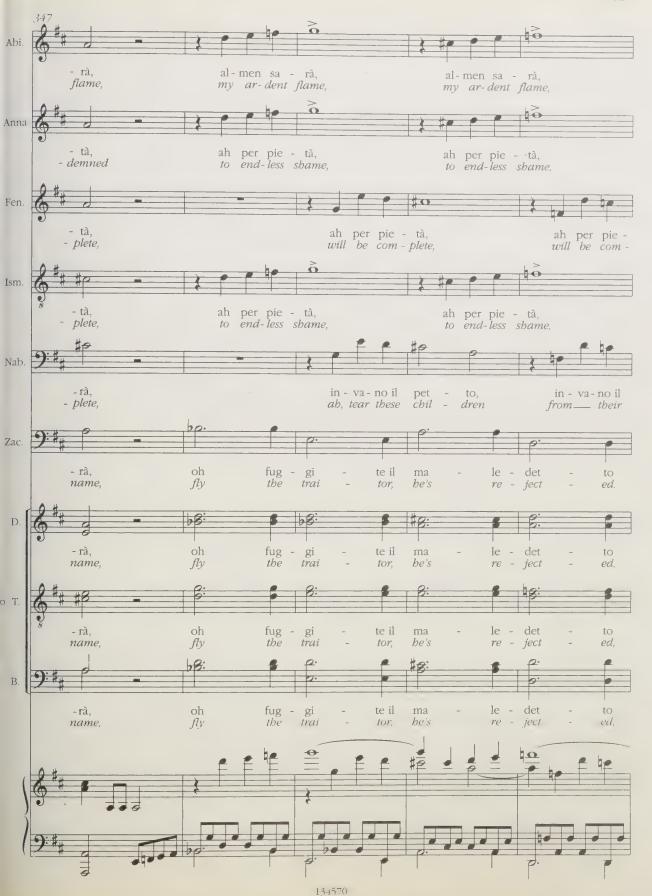




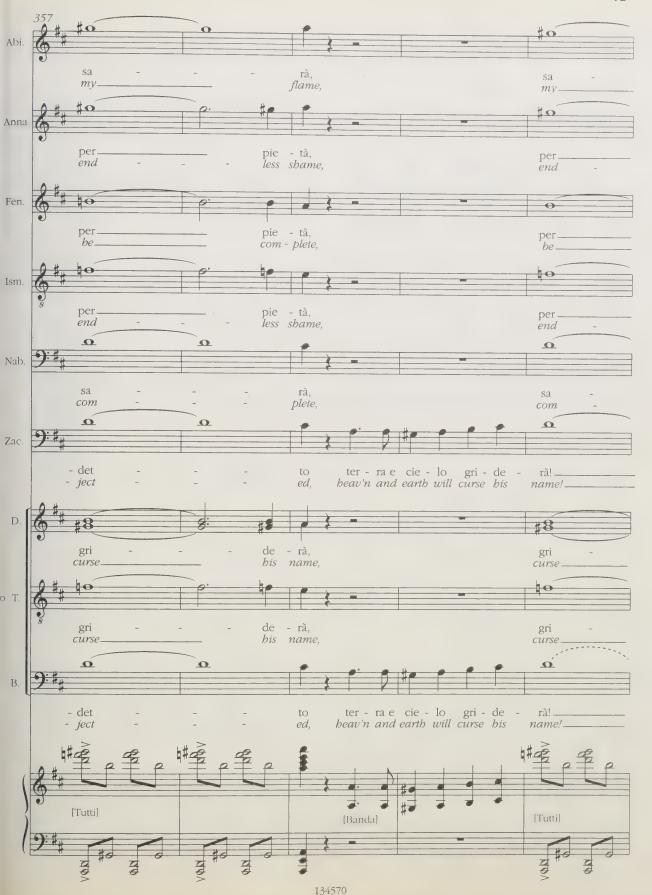








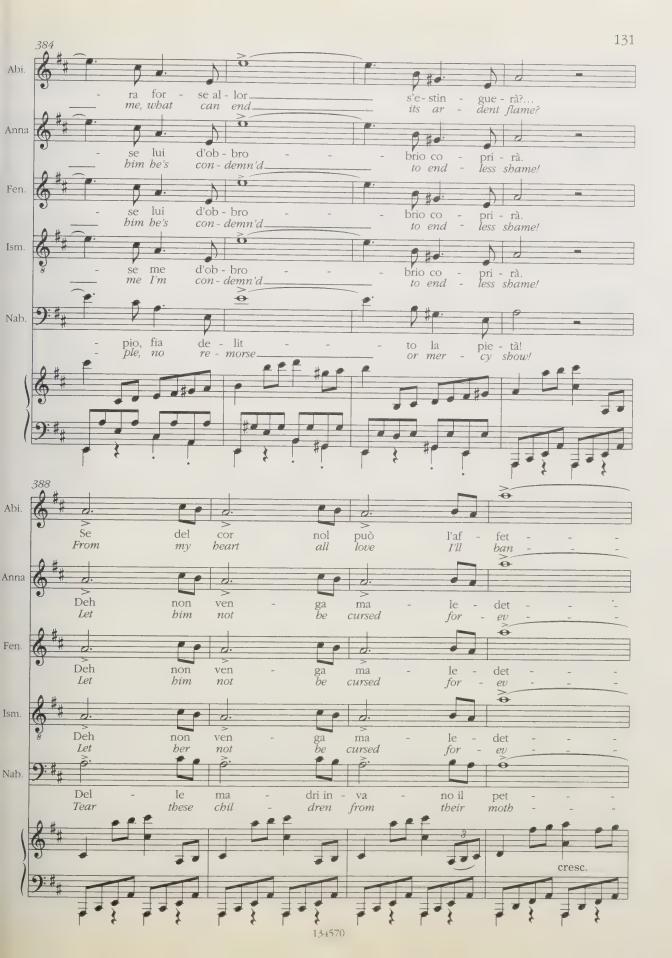


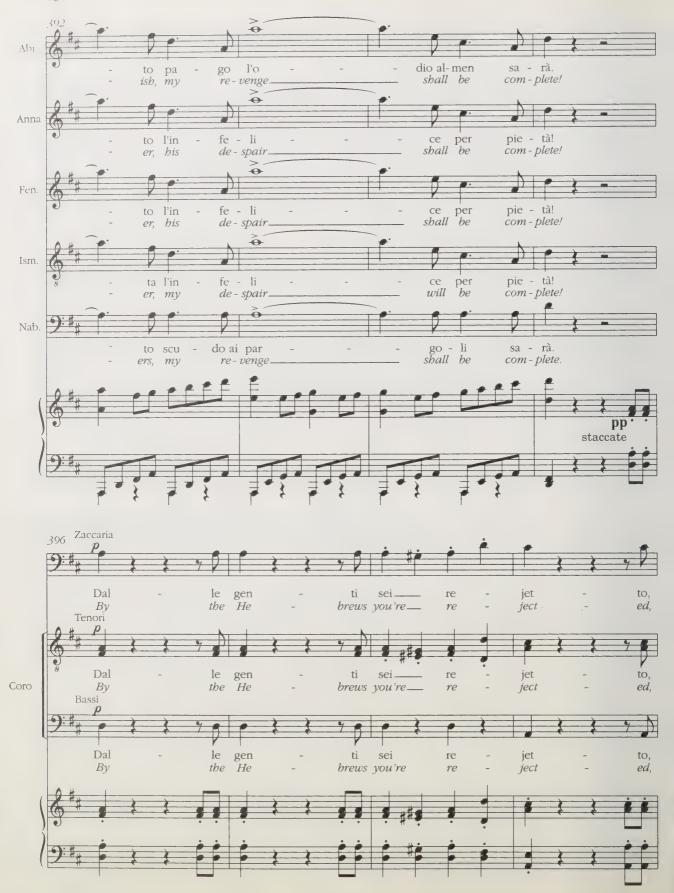


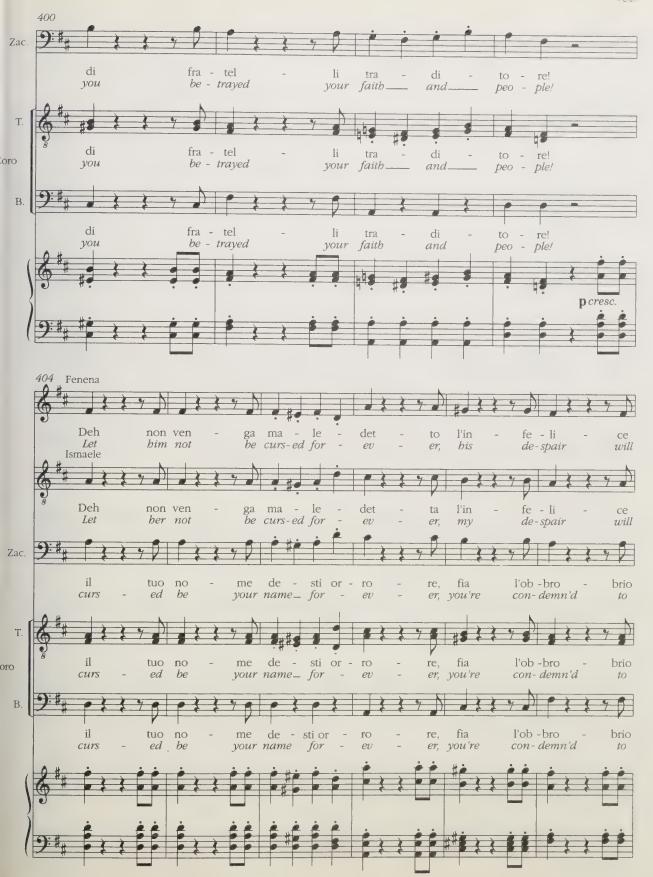




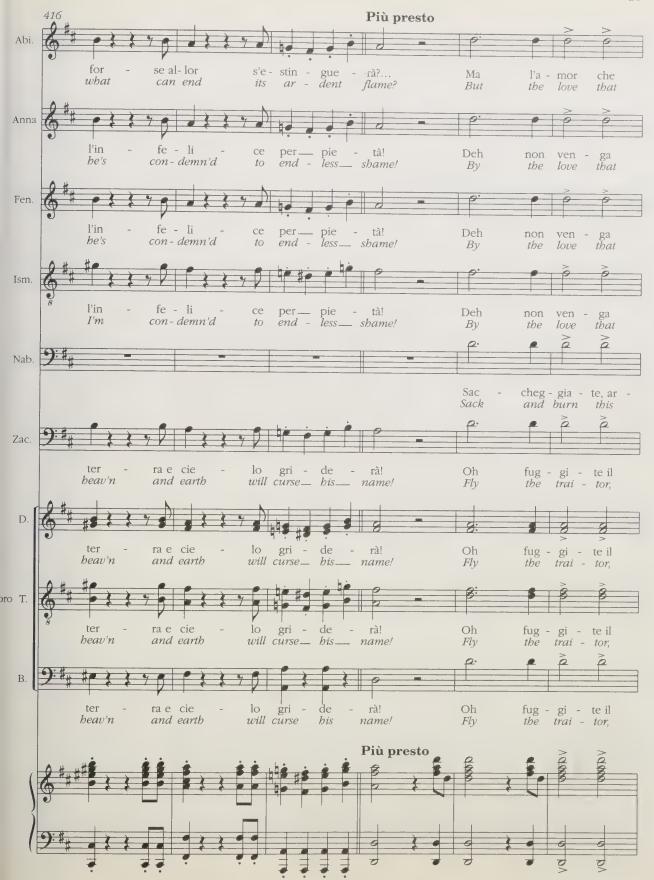




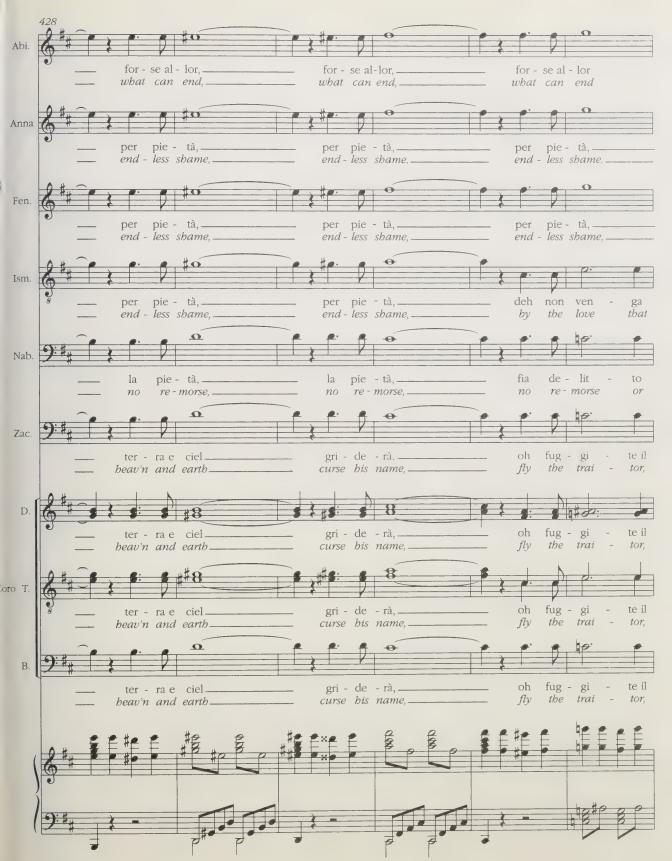


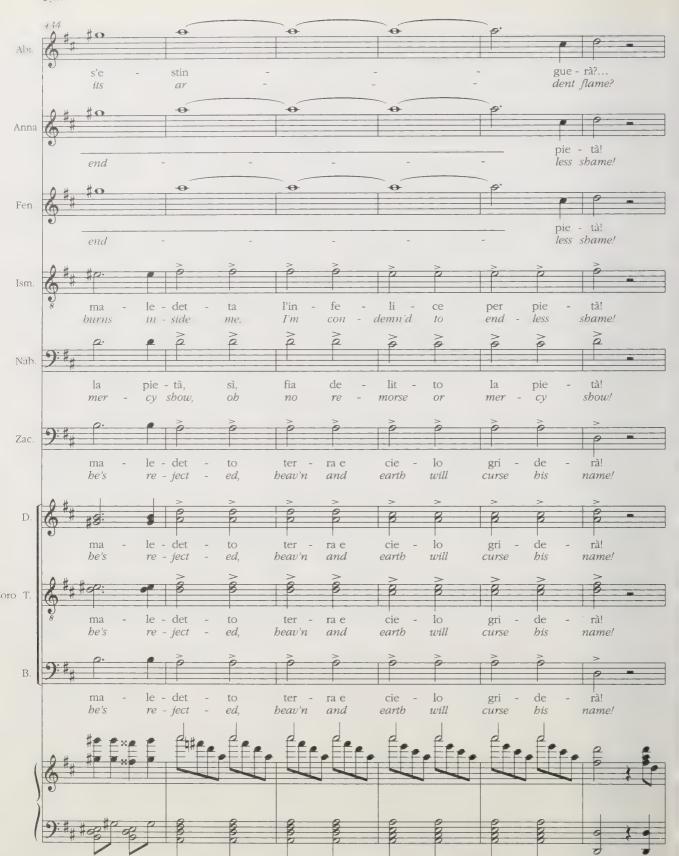










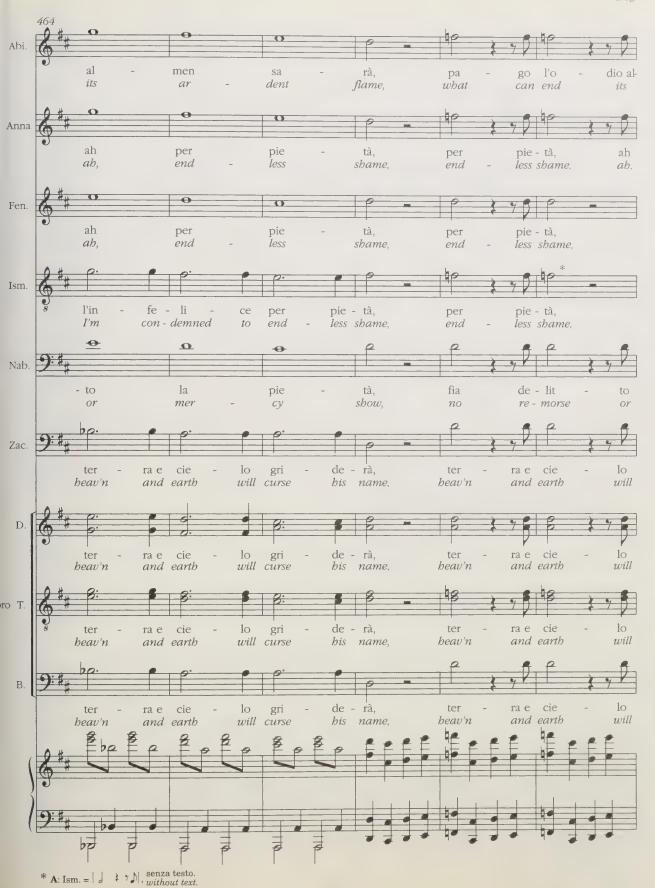
















PARTE SECONDA

(L'empio) N. 5. Scena ed Aria Abigaille

PART TWO

(The Blasphemer) N. 5. Scena and Aria Abigaille

(Ecco!...il turbo del Signore è uscito fuori; cadrà sul capo dell'empio.

**Gerem. XXX)

(Behold, the whirlwind of the Lord goeth forth... it shall fall... upon the head of the wicked.

Jeremiah, 30)

(SCENA PRIMA: Appartamenti nella reggia) (SCENE ONE: An apartment in the royal palace)









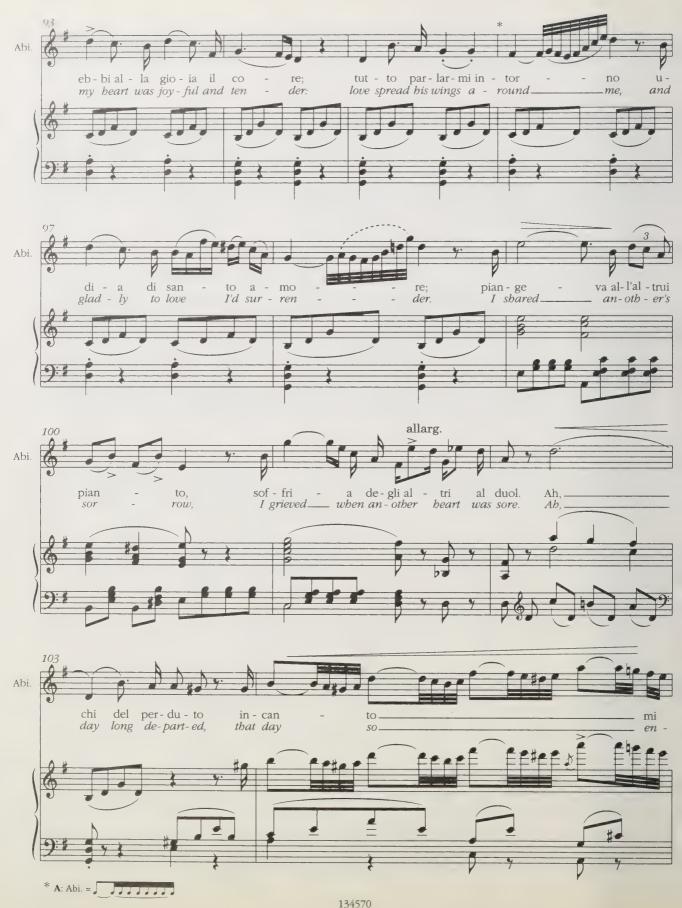


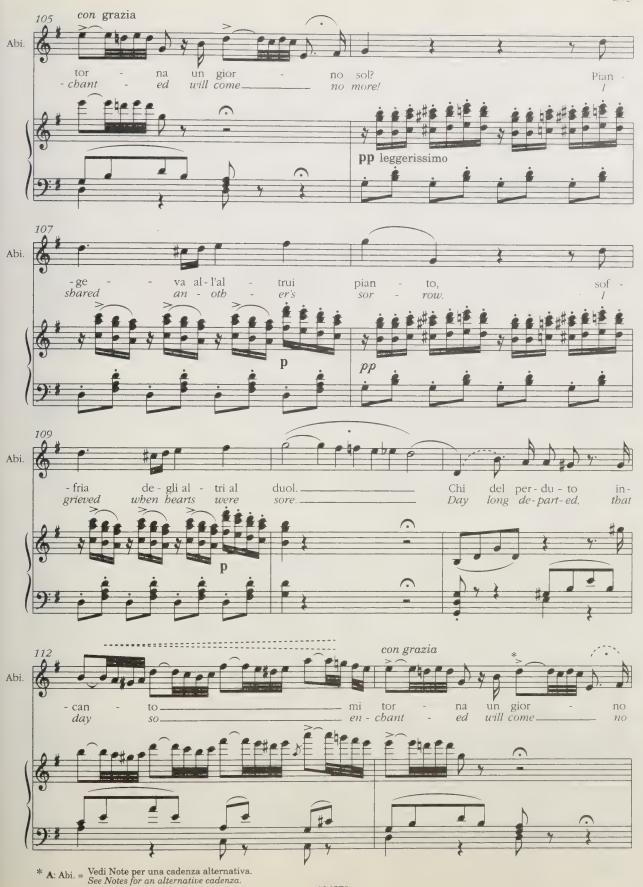






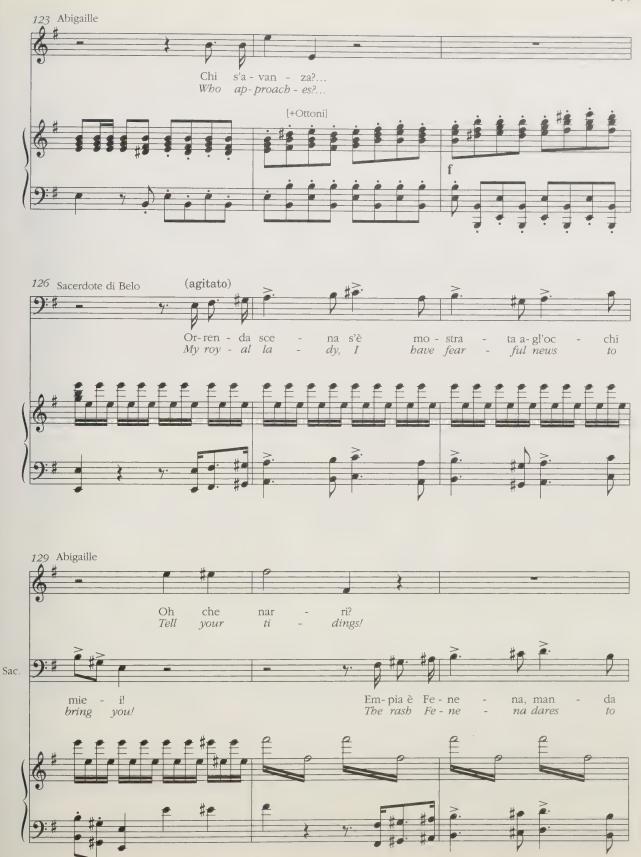




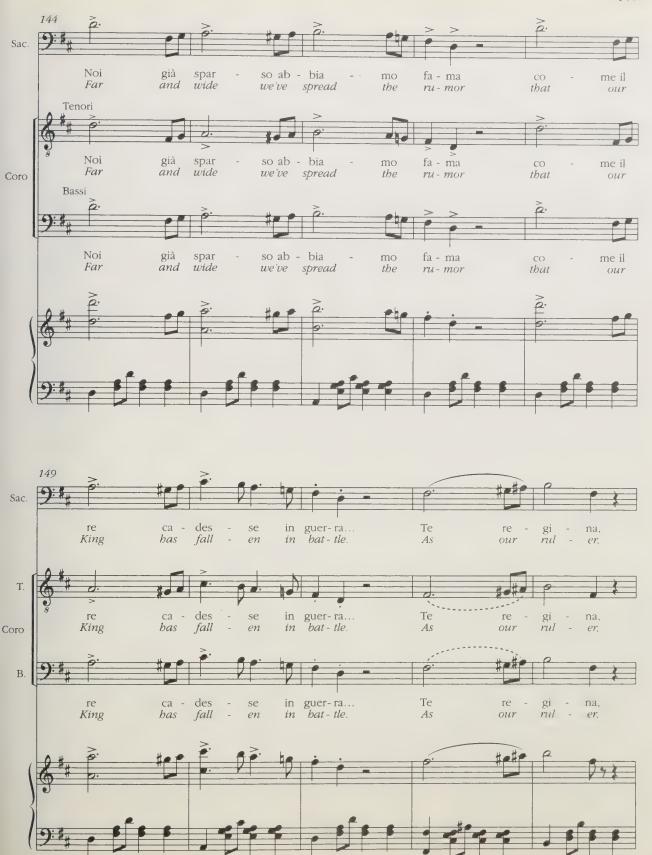




** A: Abi. = $\int_{\text{tor-na un}} V$ edi Note per una cadenza alternativa. See Notes for an alternative cadenza.





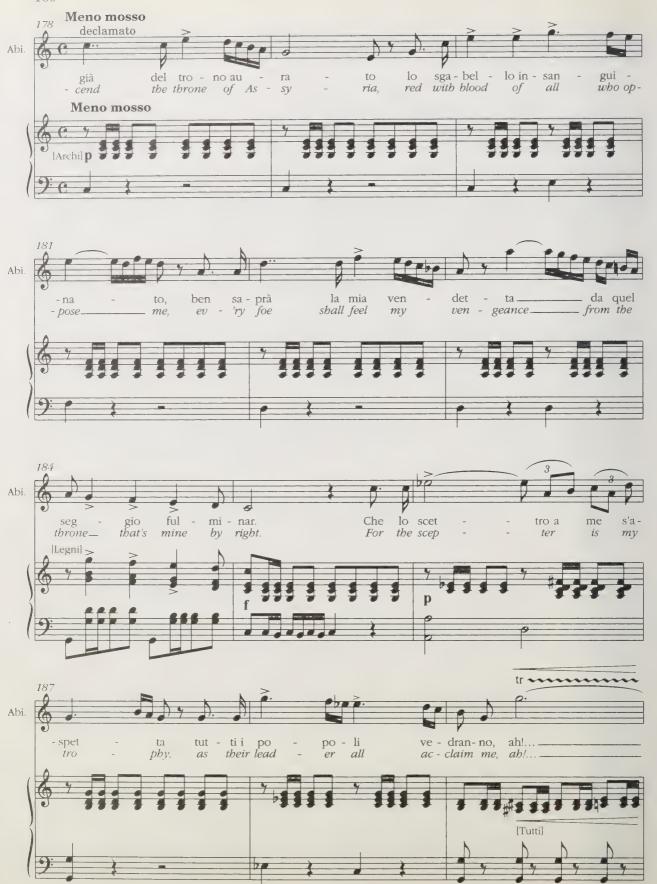


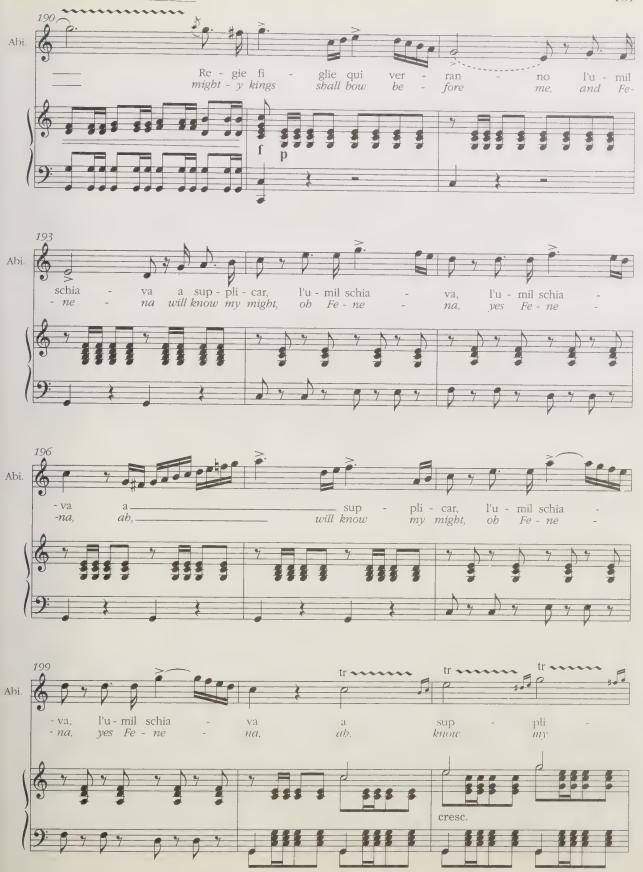




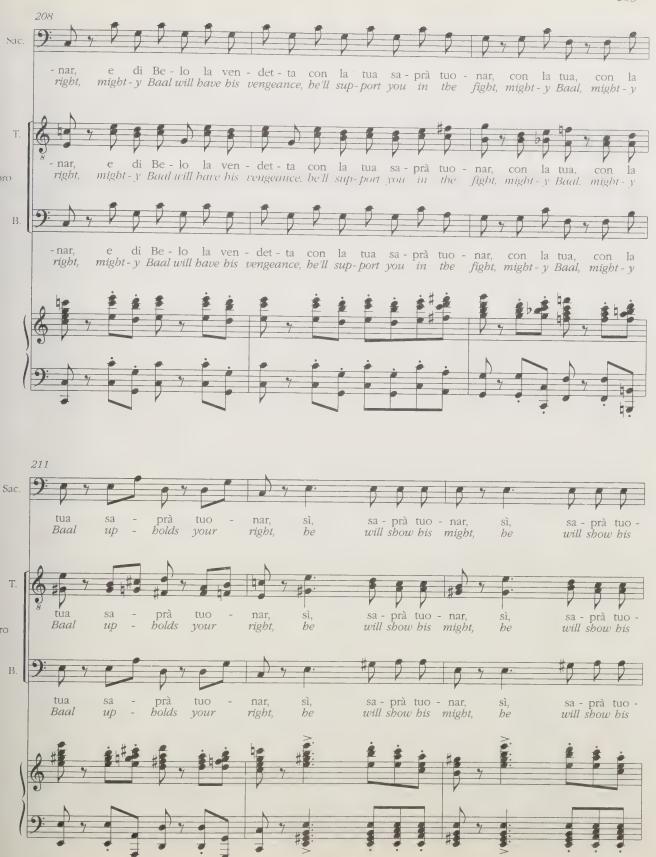


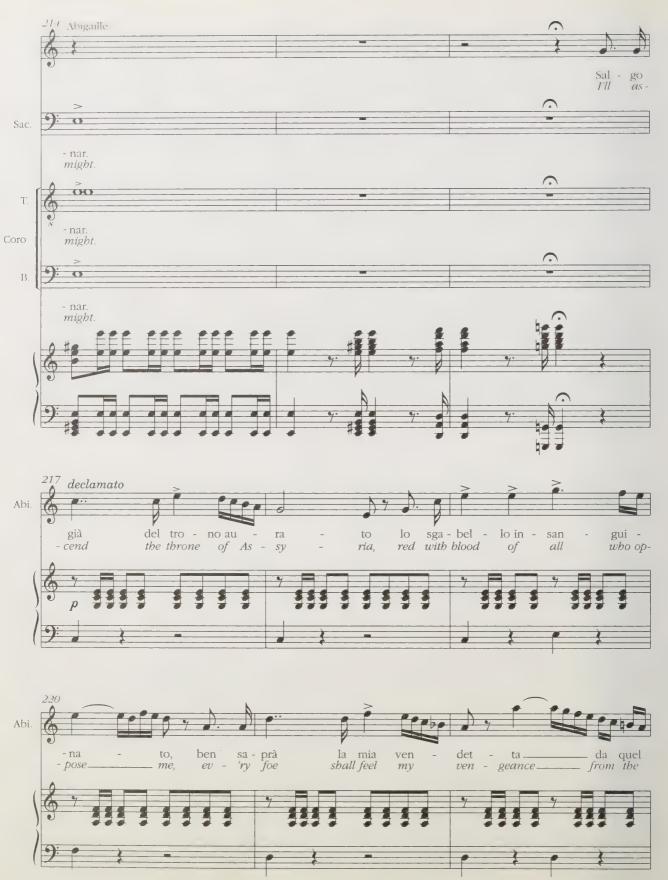


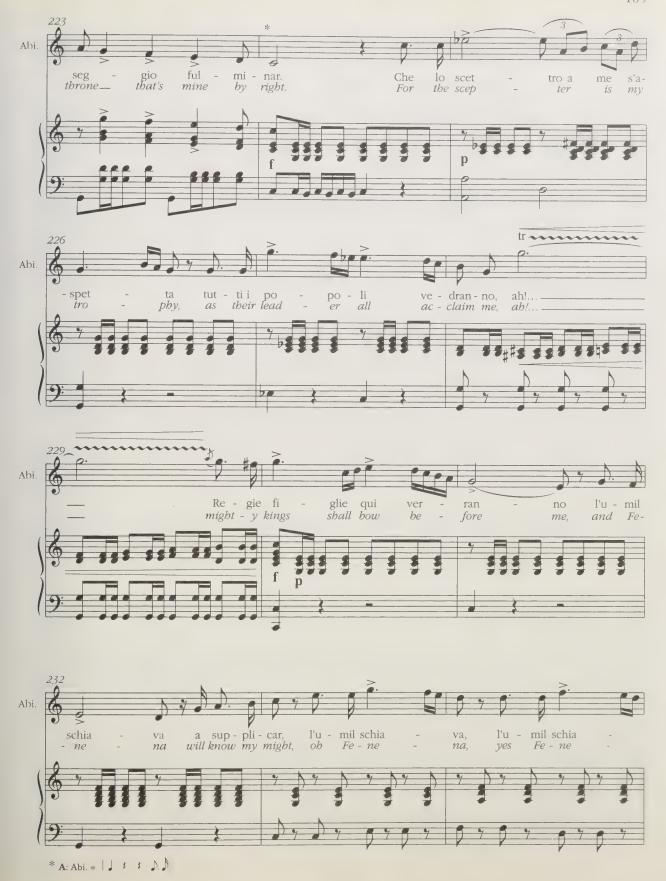




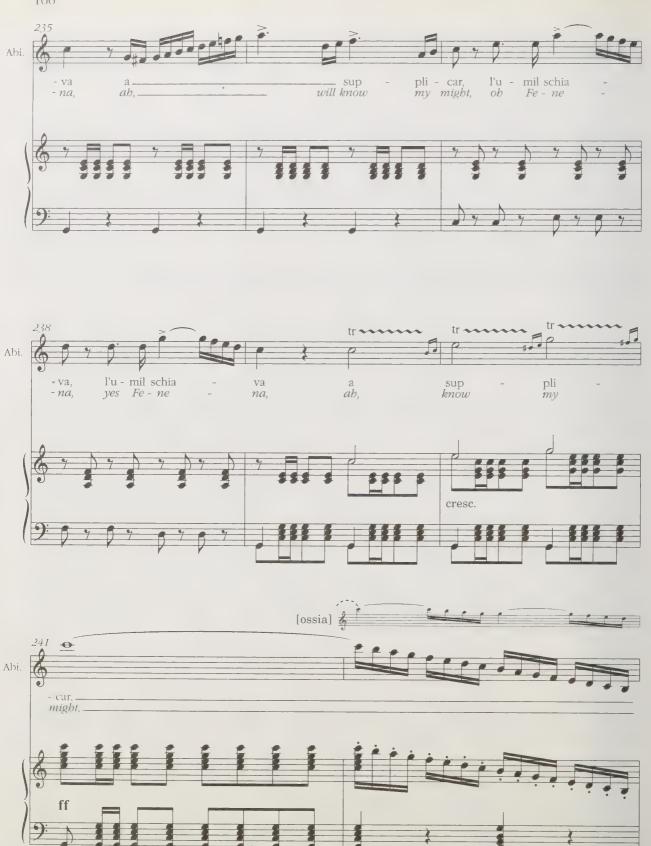


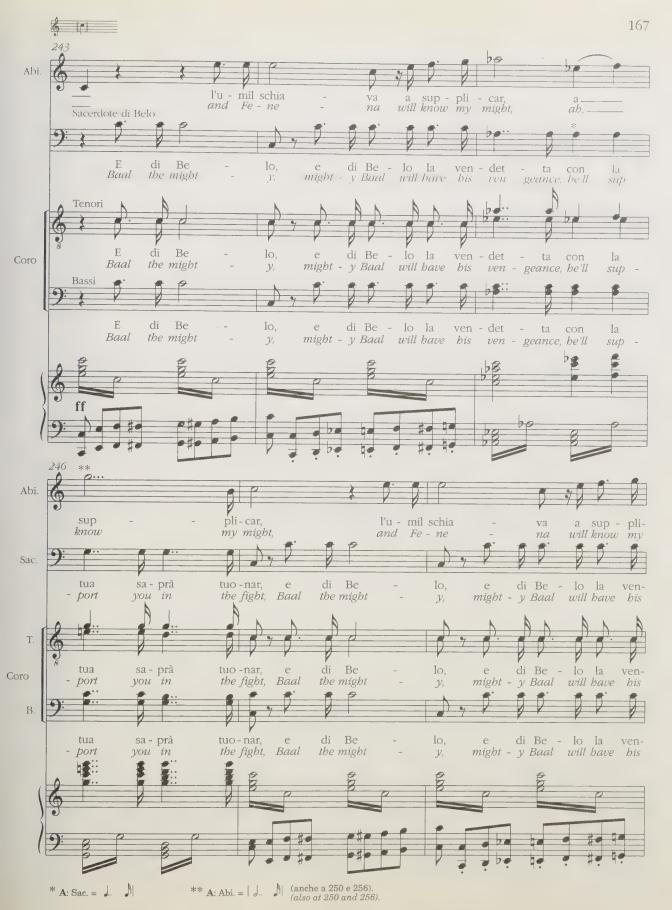


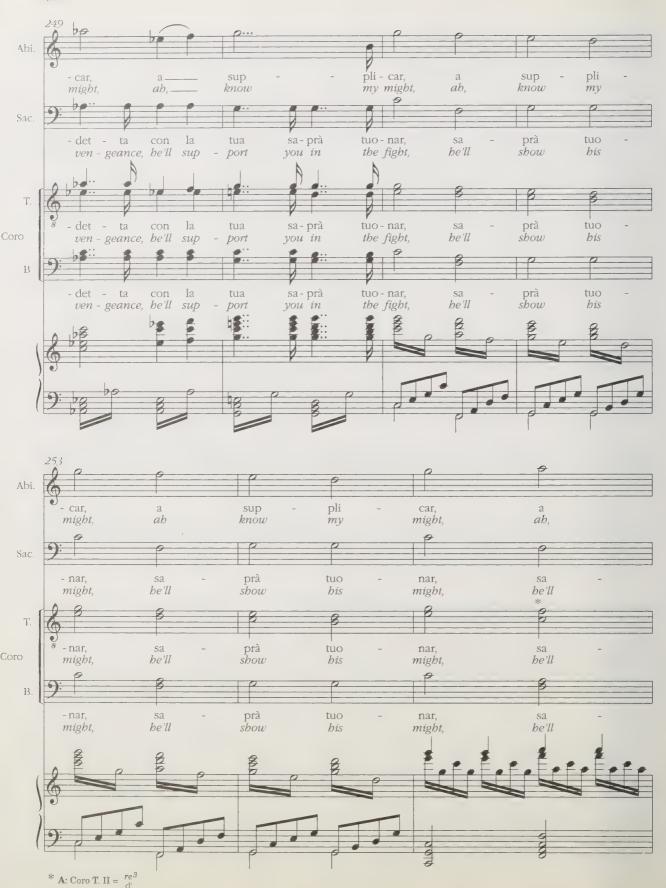


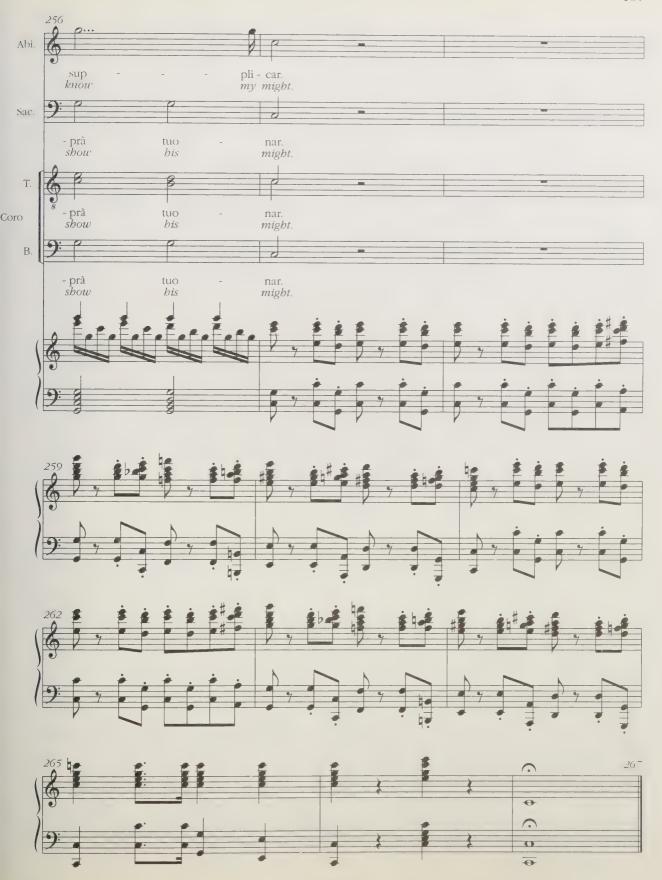












N. 6. Recitativo e Preghiera

N. 6. Recitative and Prayer

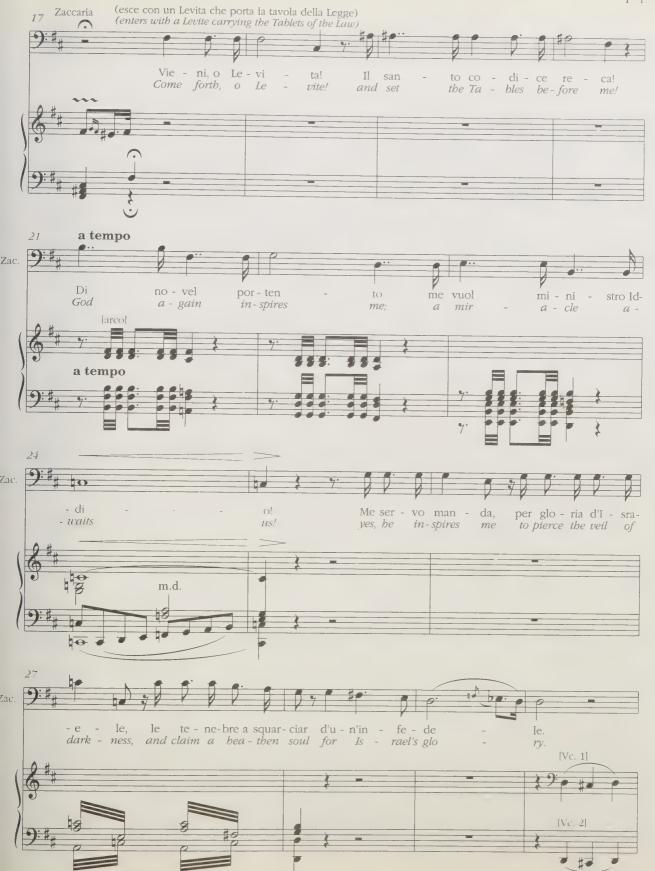
(SCENA III: Sala nella reggia che risponde nel fondo ad altre sale; a destra una porta che conduce ad una galleria, a sinistra un'altra porta che comunica cogli appartamenti della Reggente. È la sera. La sala è illuminata da una lampada) (SCENE III: A hall in the palace, connecting at the back with other halls. R: a door leading to a gallery. L: another door leading to the regent's apartments. Evening; the hall is lit by a lantern)





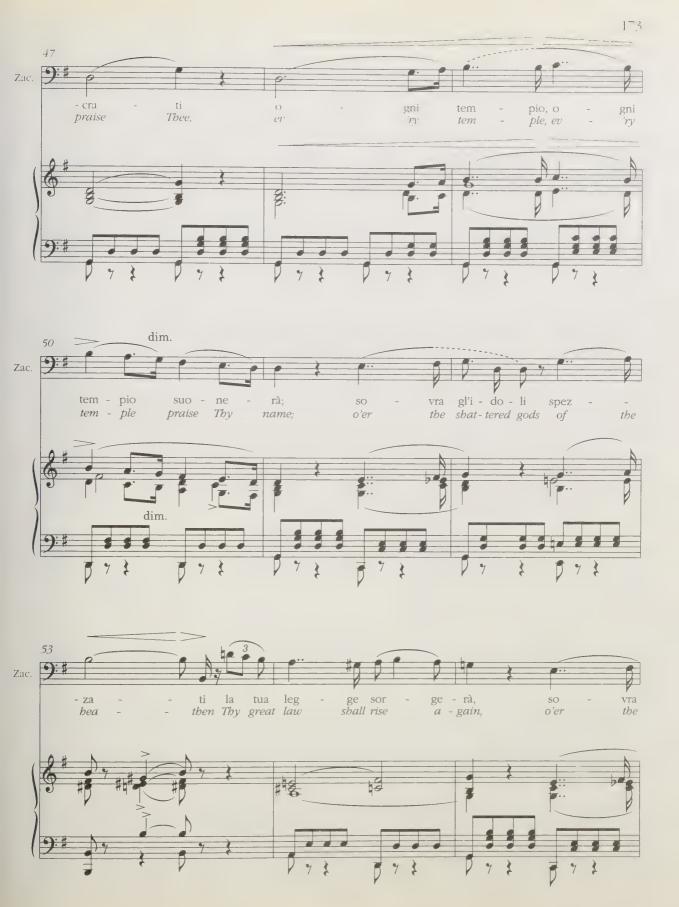






134570



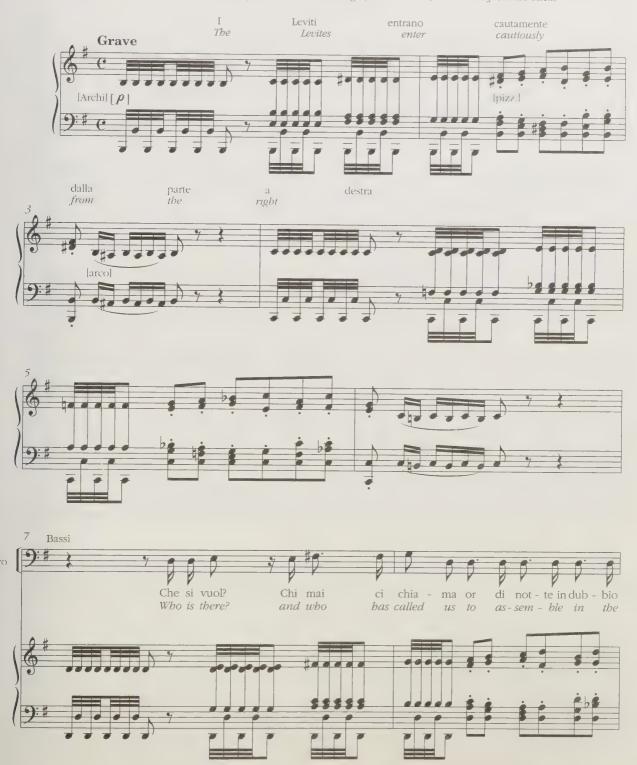




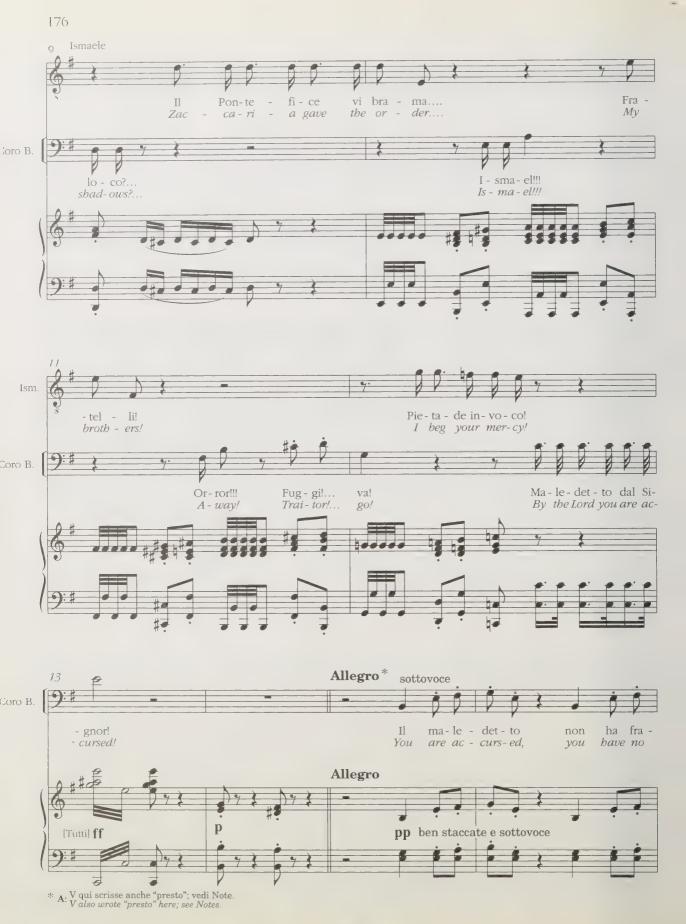
N. 7. Coro di Leviti*

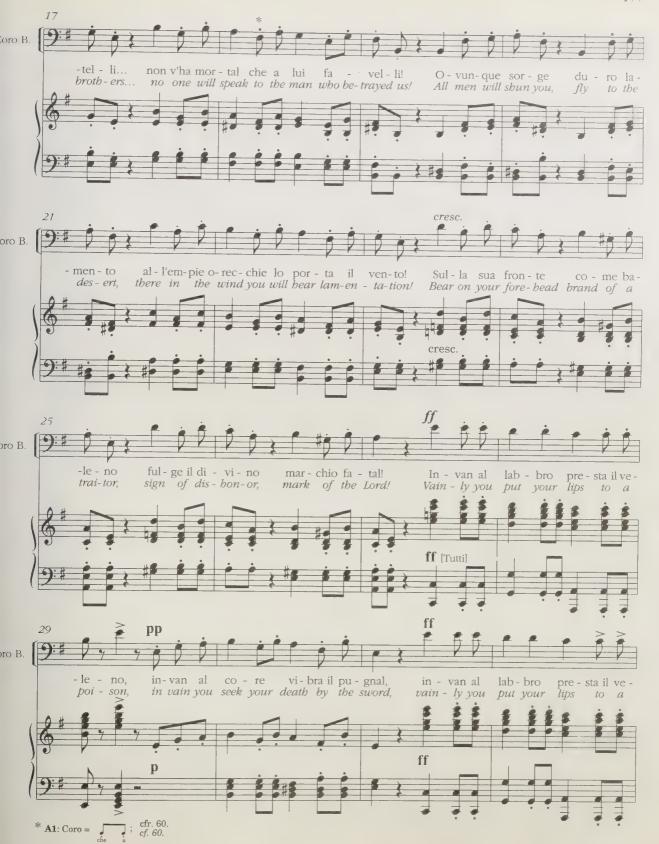
N. 7. Chorus of Levites

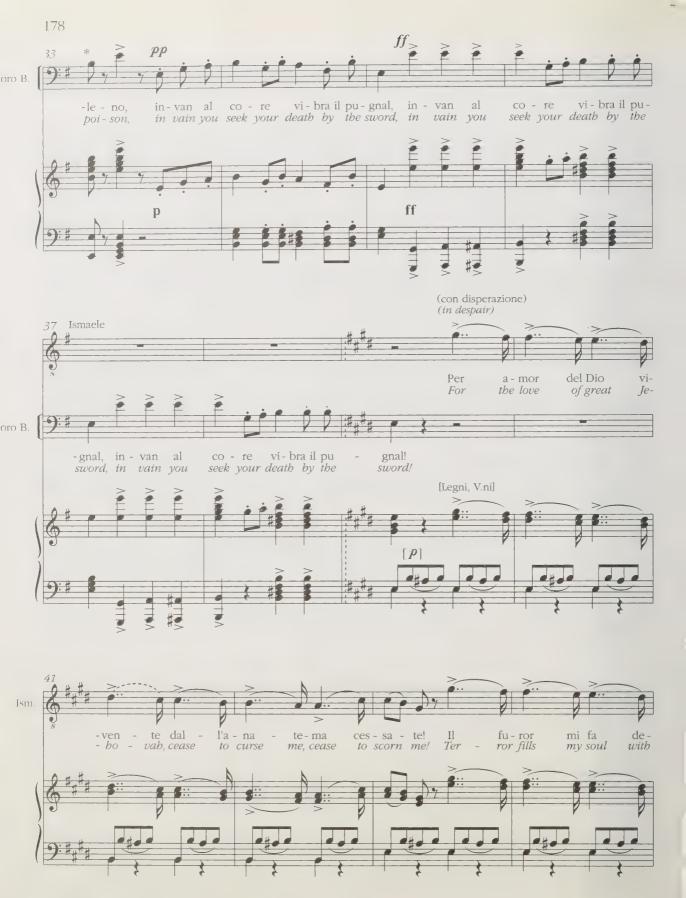
(SCENA IV: Leviti, che vengono cautamente dalla porta a destra, indi Ismaele che si presenta dal fondo) (SCENE IV: Levites, who enter cautiously from the door to the right; then Ismaele, who enters from the back)



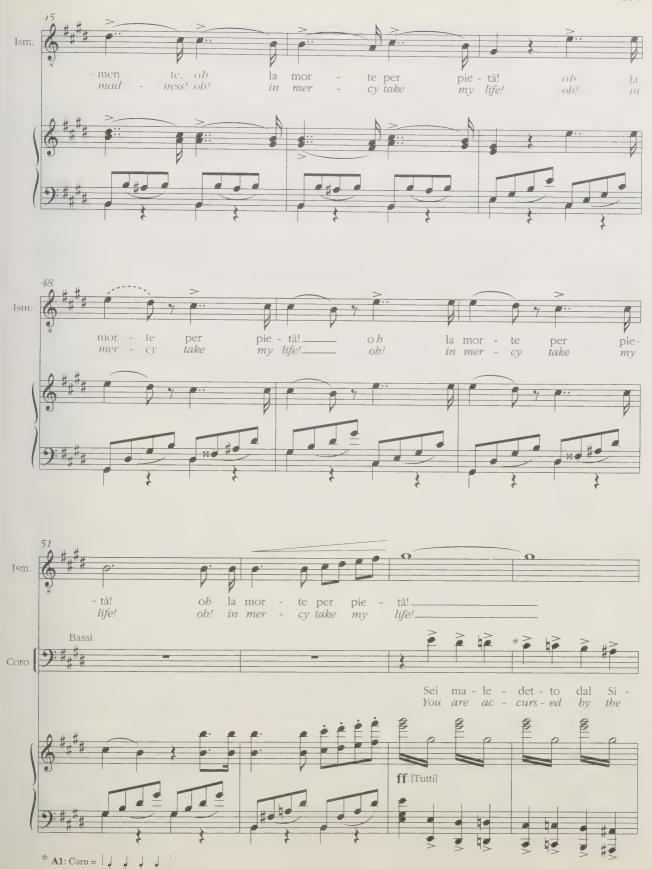
^{*} Per una versione trasportata del Coro di Leviti (in Mib minore/maggiore), vedi l'Appendice 2. For a transposed version of the Coro di Leviti (in $E^{\rm b}$ minor/major), see Appendix 2.



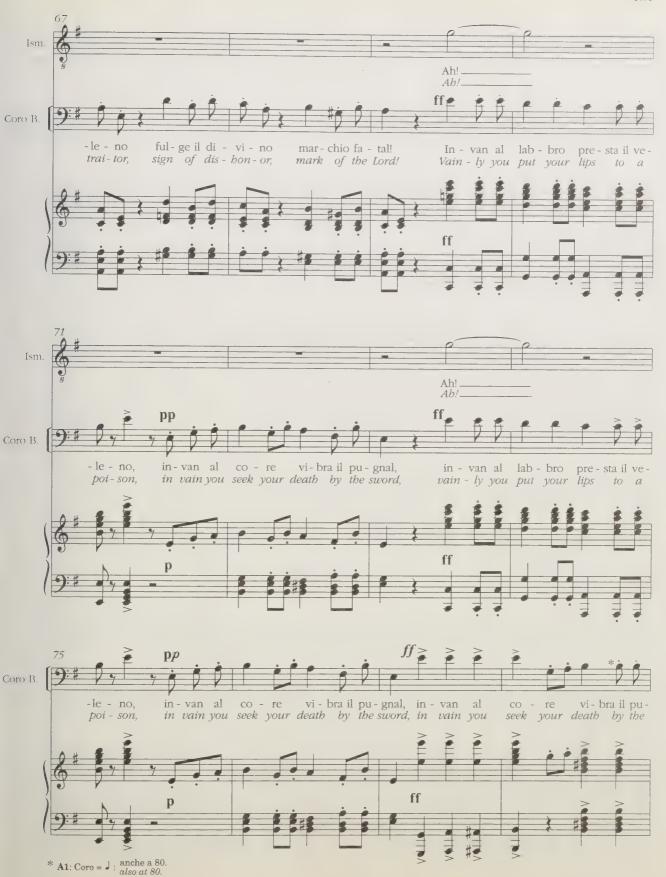




* A1: Coro = J; anche a 71 e 75.



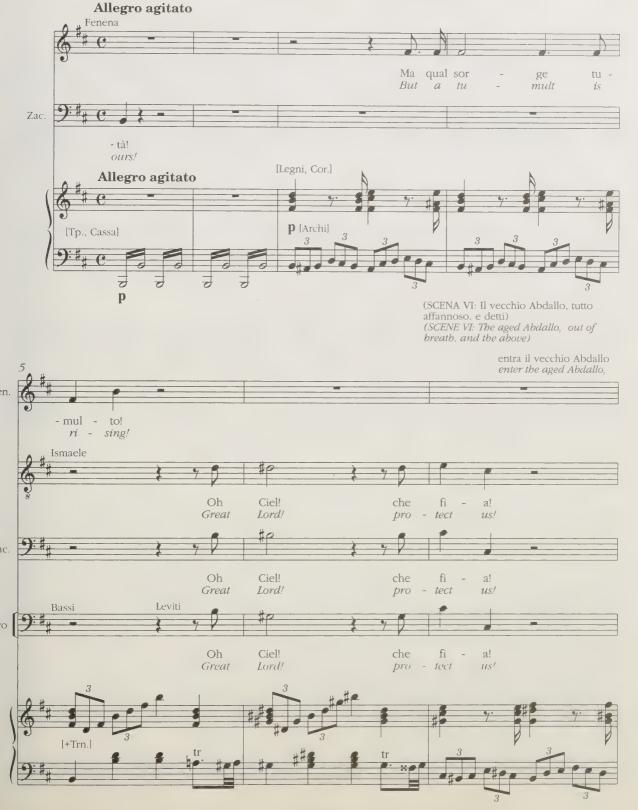




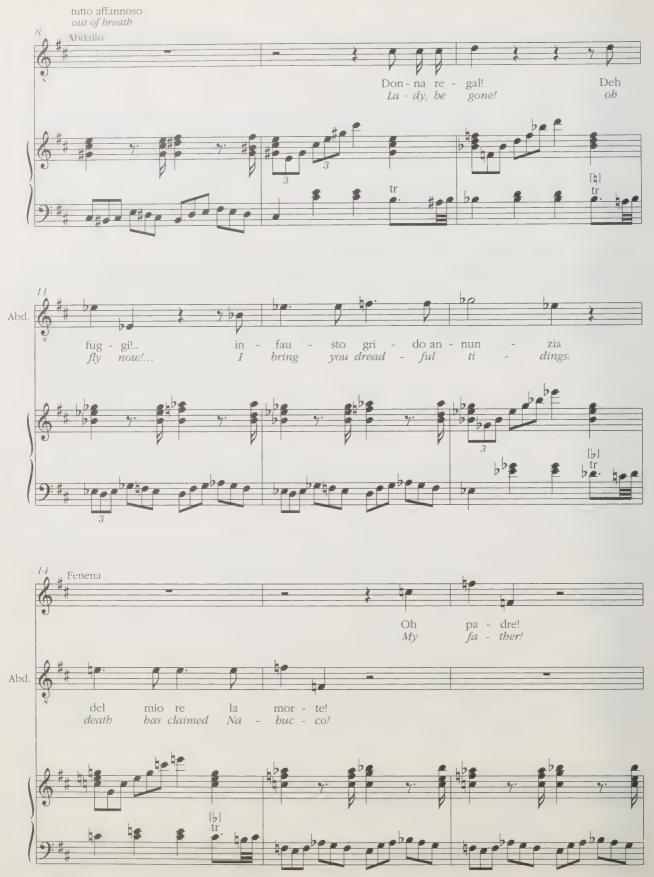


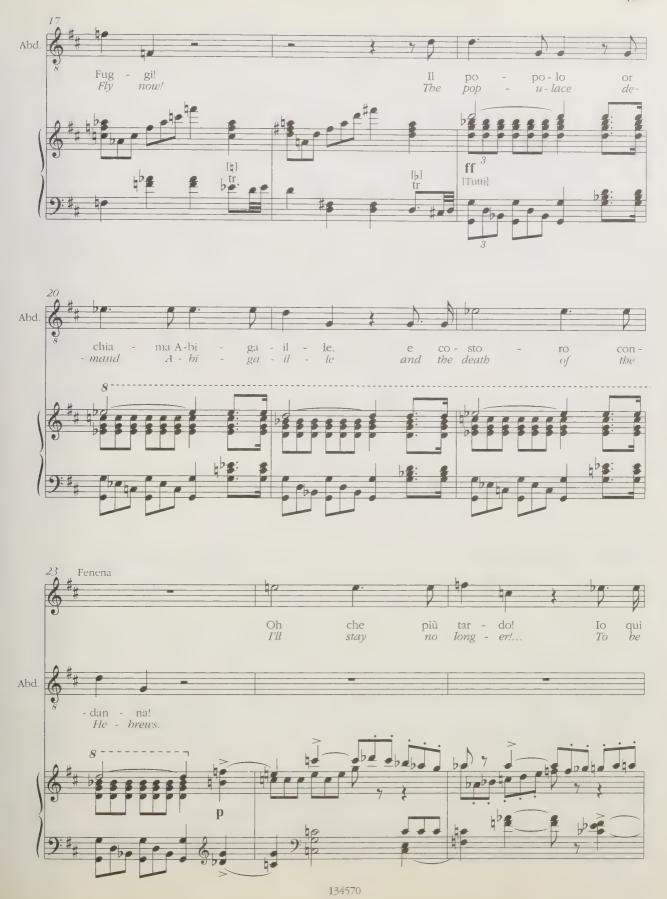














(SCENA VII: Sacerdote di Belo, Abigaille, Grandi, Magi, Popolo, Donne babilonesi) (SCENE VII: The High Priest of Baal, Abigaille, Lords, Magi, People, Babylonian women)

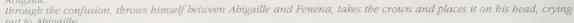


"Nabucodonosor aprendosi co' suoi guerrieri la via in mezzo allo scompiglio, si getta fra Abigaille e Fenena; prende la corona e

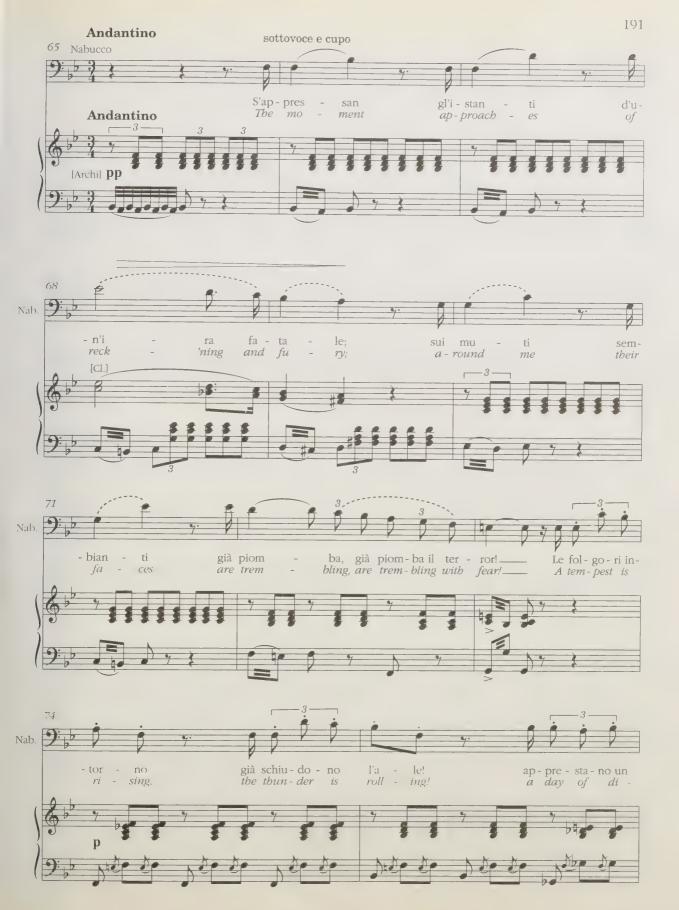
* MI⁴². Postasela in fronte dice ad Abigaille"

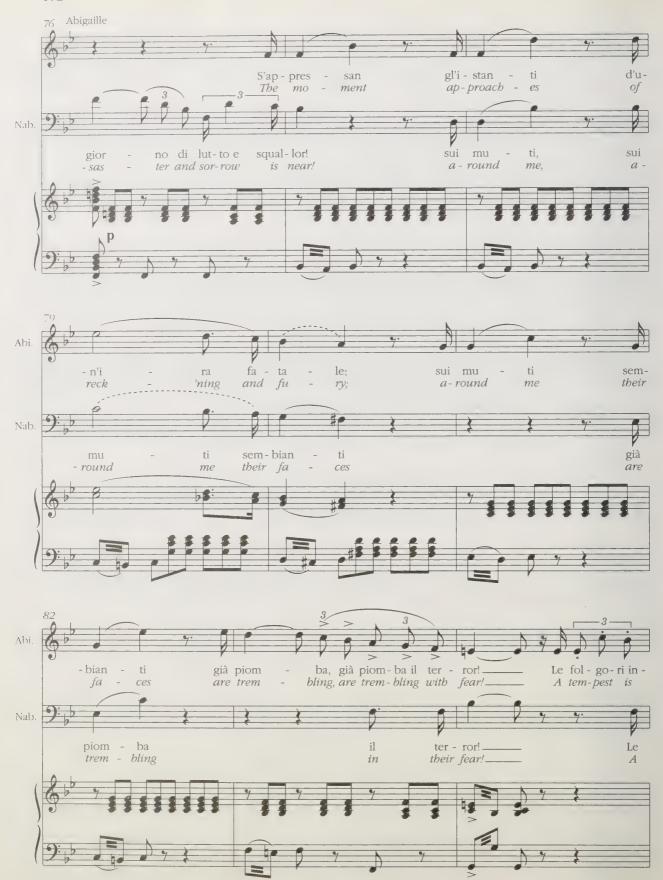
"Nabucodonosor, with his warriors forcing his way through the confusion, throws himself between Abigaille and Fenena, takes the crown and places it on his head, saying to Abigaille"

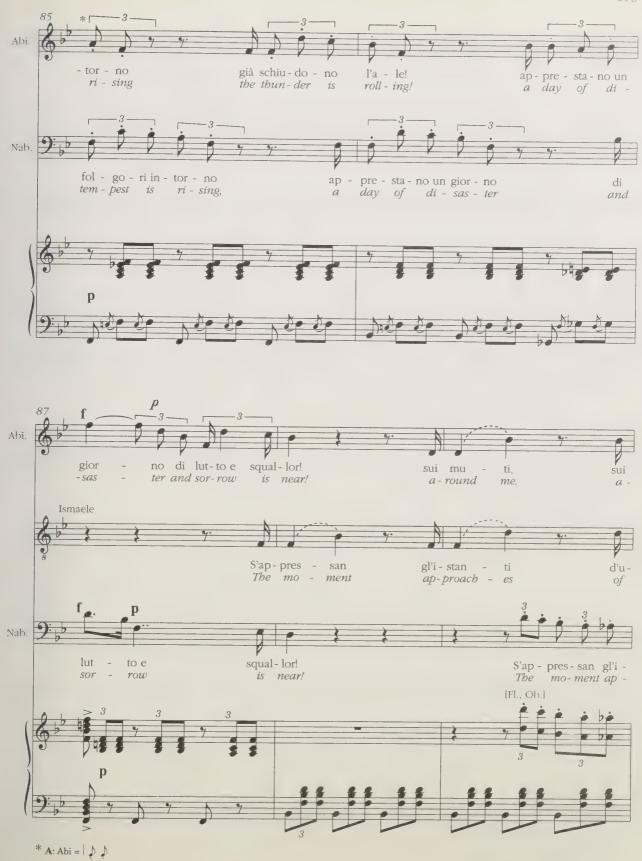
la via in mezzo allo scompiglio si getta fra Abigaille e Fenena; prende la corona e postasela in fronte grida ad Abigaille:

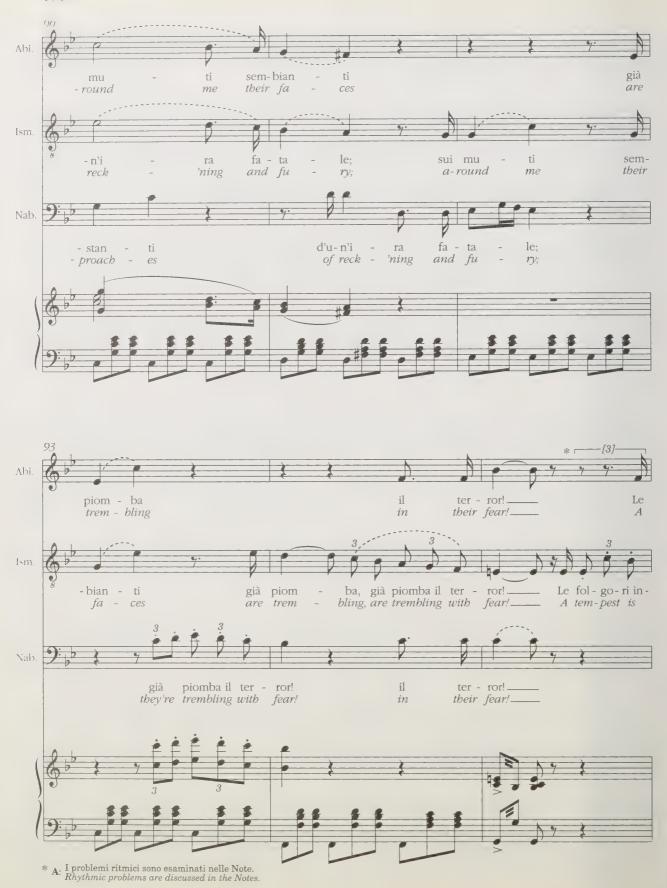


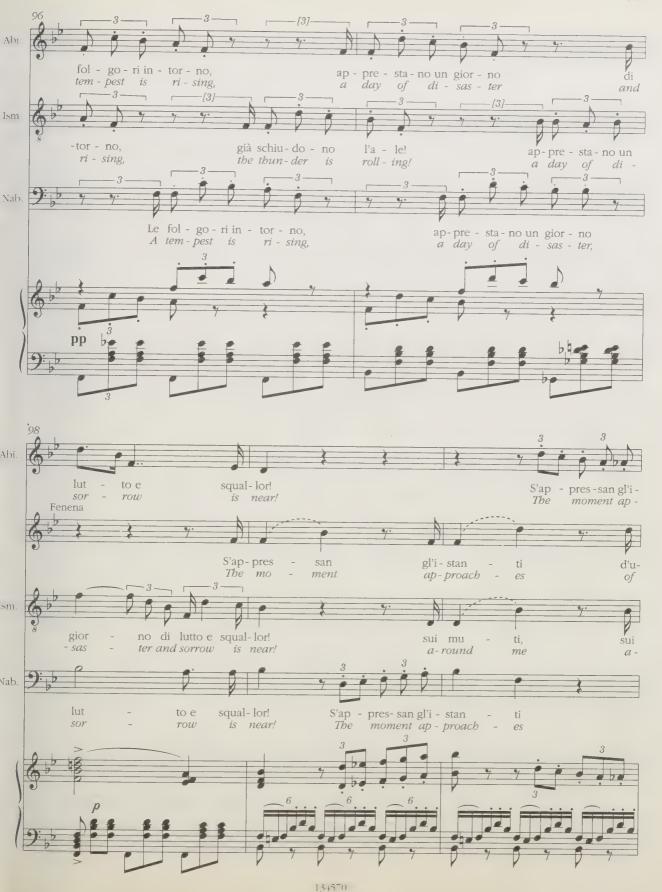


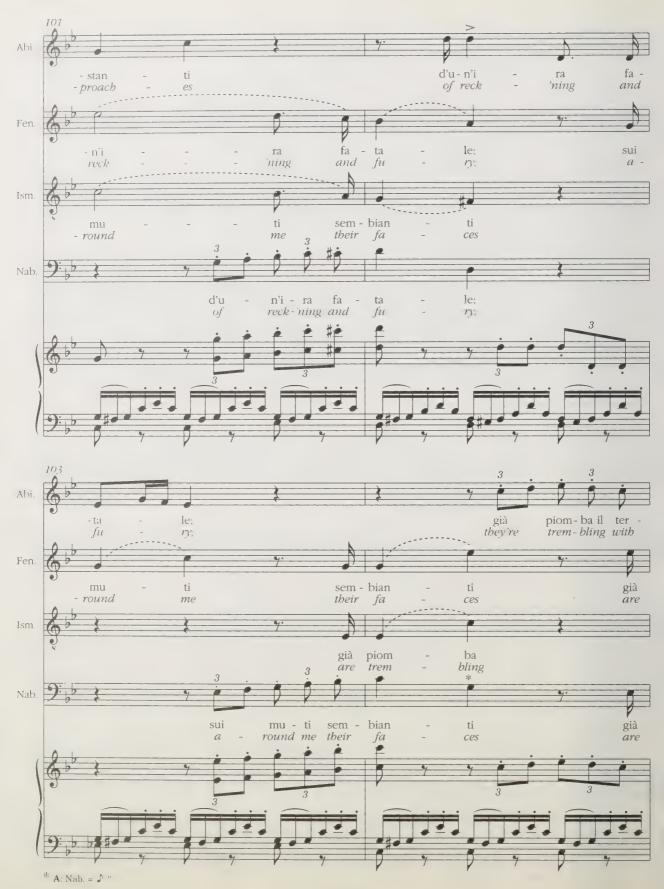


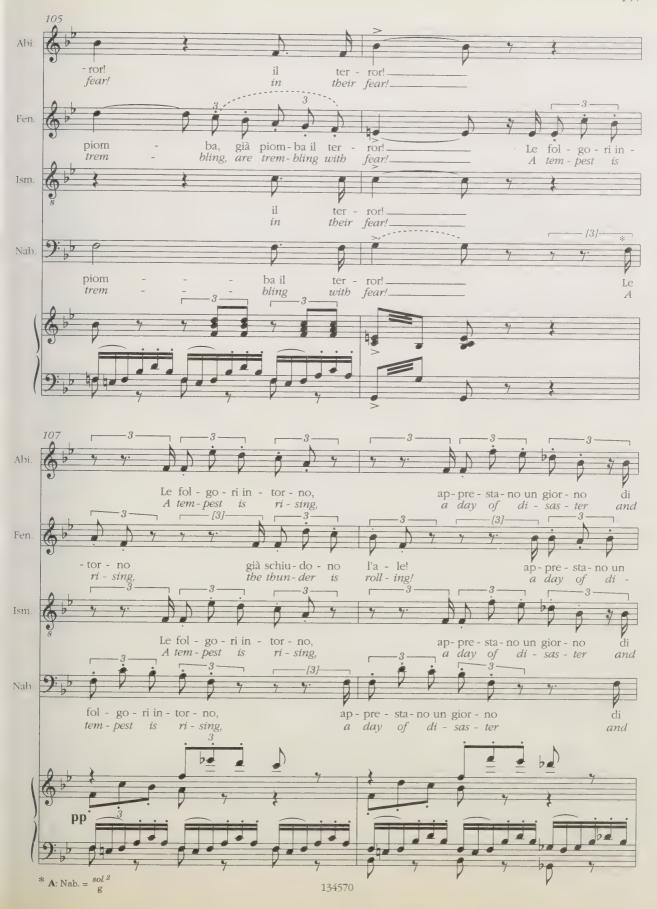








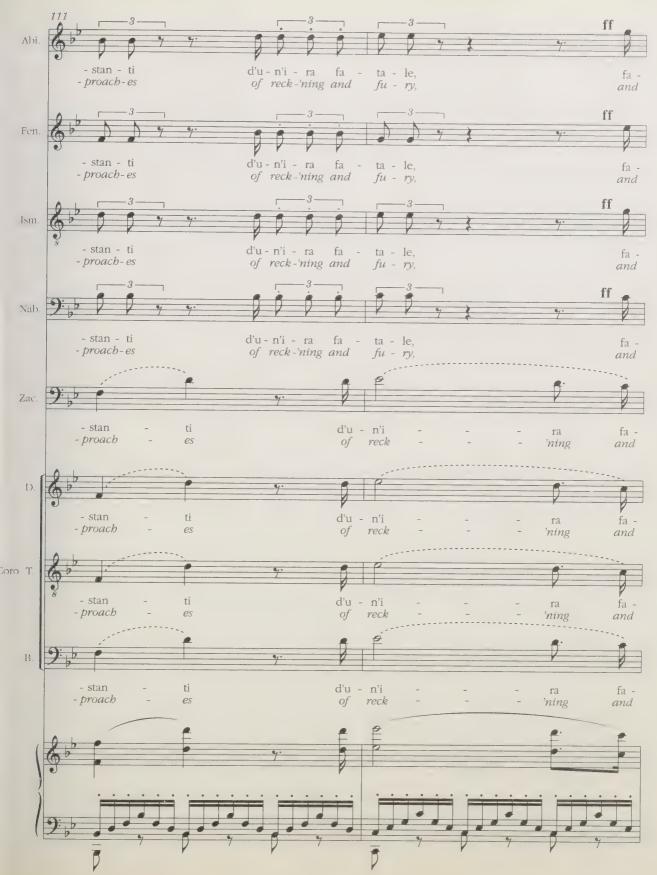




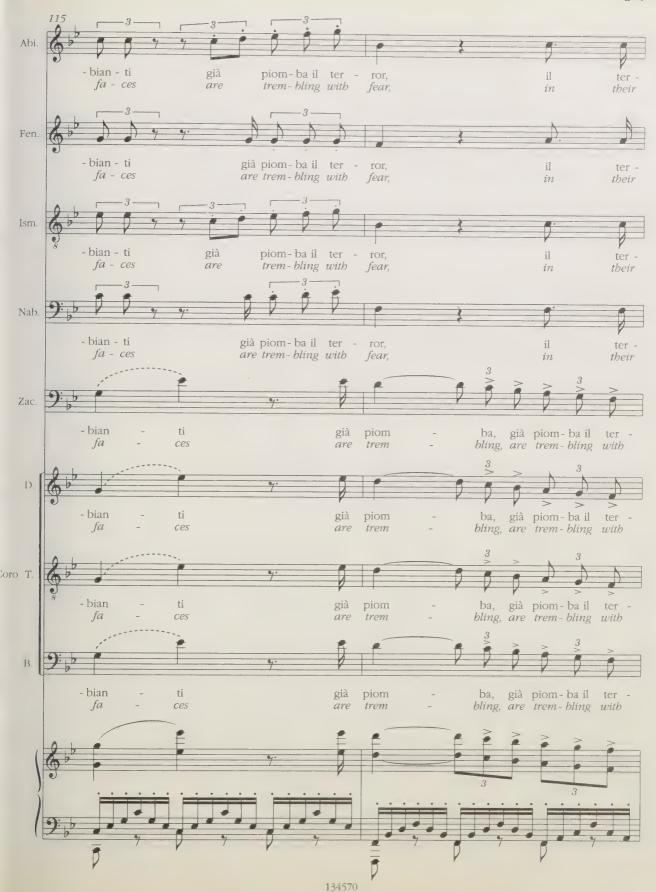


^{**} A: Le parti di Abi., Fen., Ism., Nab. sono di mano di un copista a 110-117 (esclusa l'ultima nota di 117 in Fen. e Nab.).
The parts of Abi., Fen., Ism., Nab. are in a copyist's hand at 110-117 (excluding the upbeat to 118 in Fen. and Nab.).

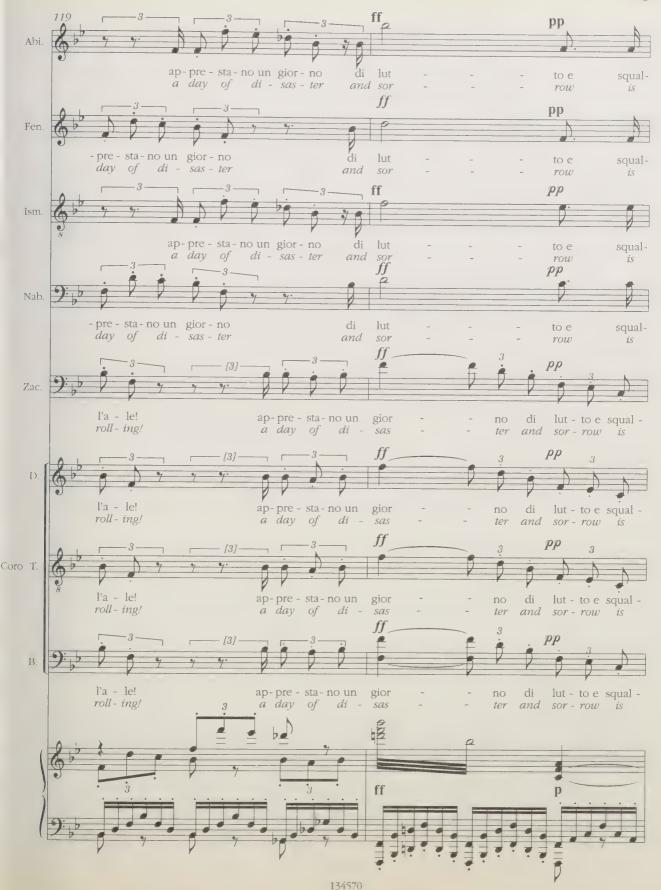
[†] **A**: Abi. = $\frac{si^3}{bb}$; Fen. = $\frac{sib^2}{bb}$; Ism. = $\frac{re^2}{d}$



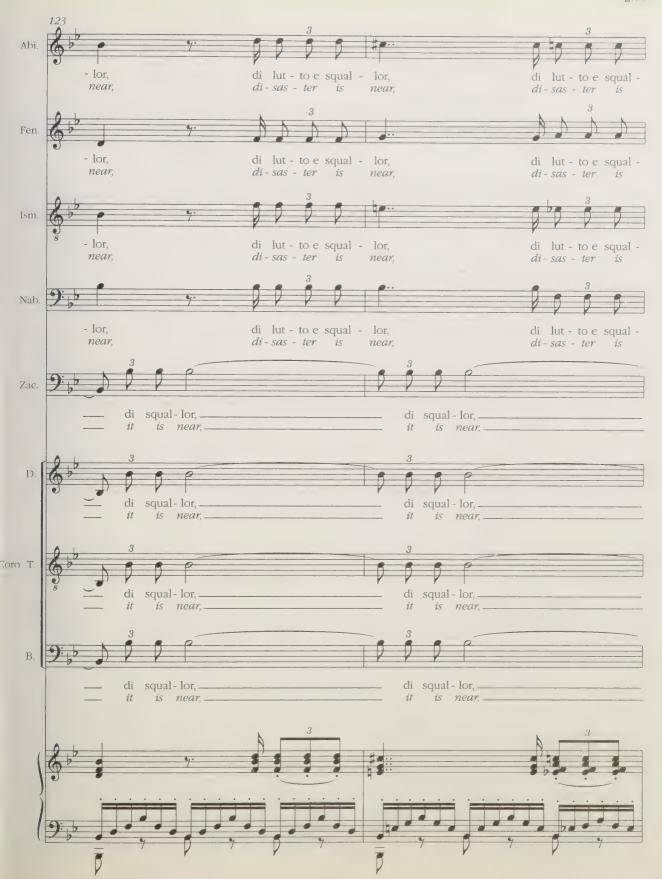








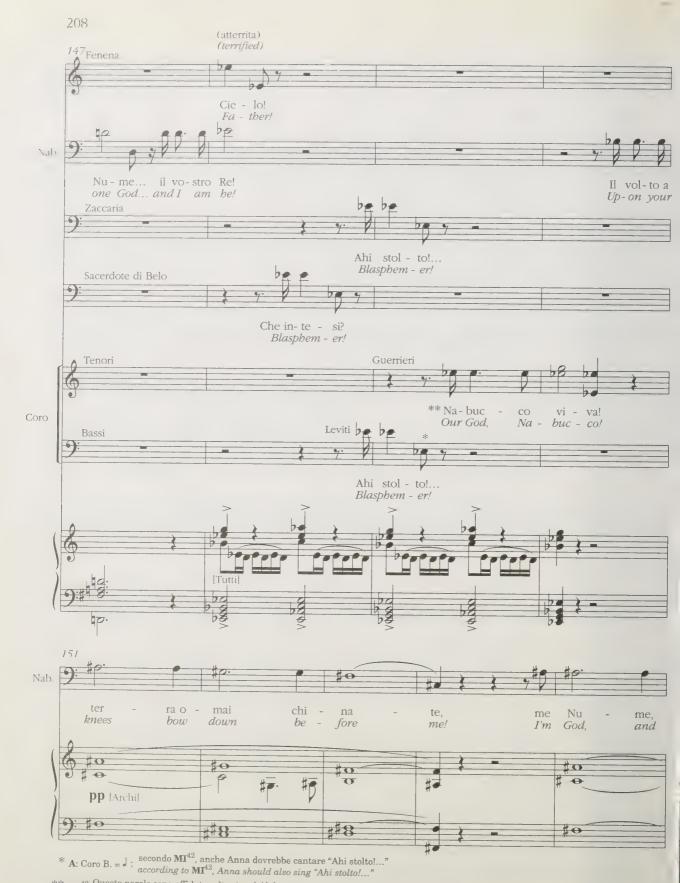




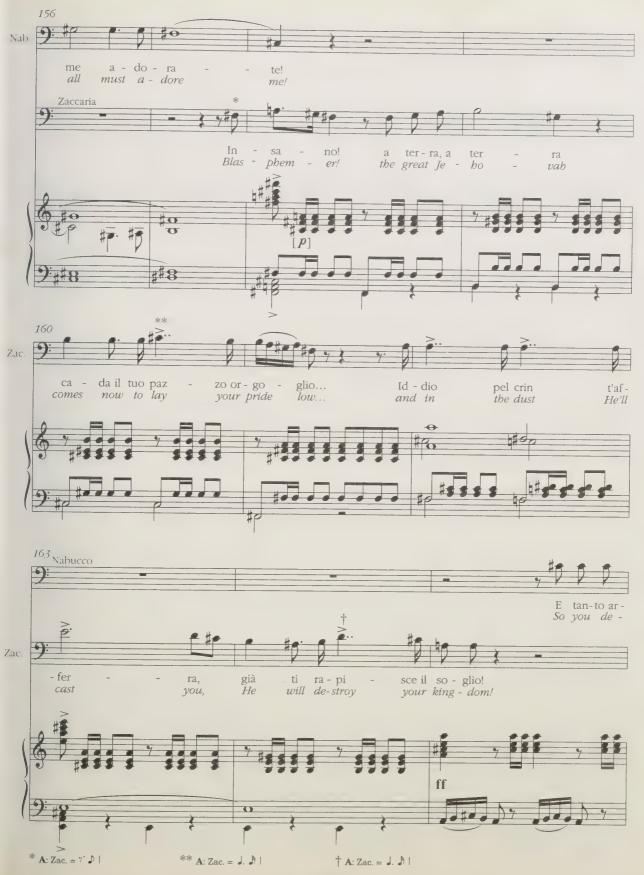
134570

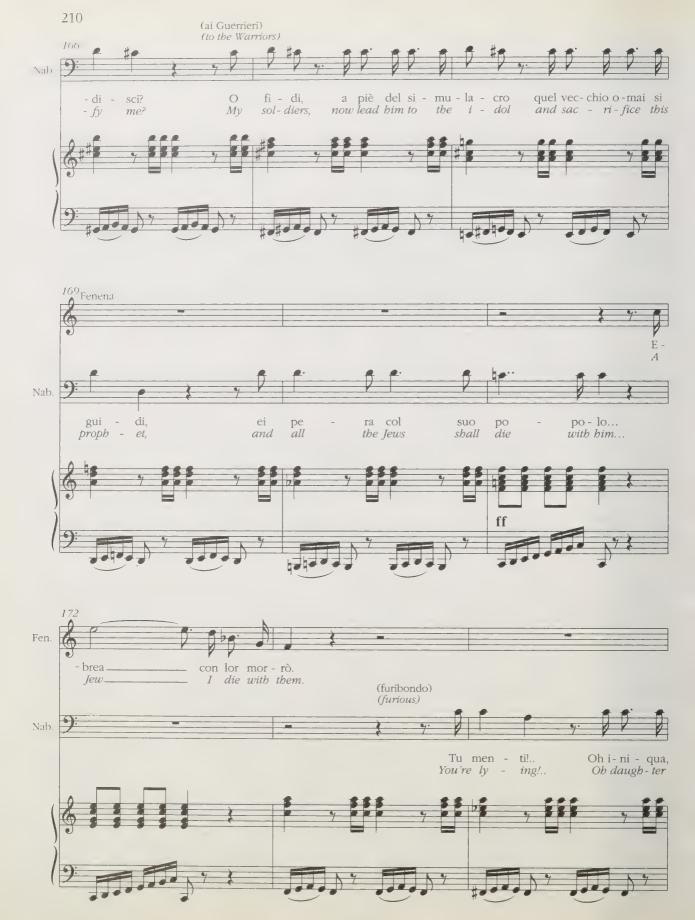
ff

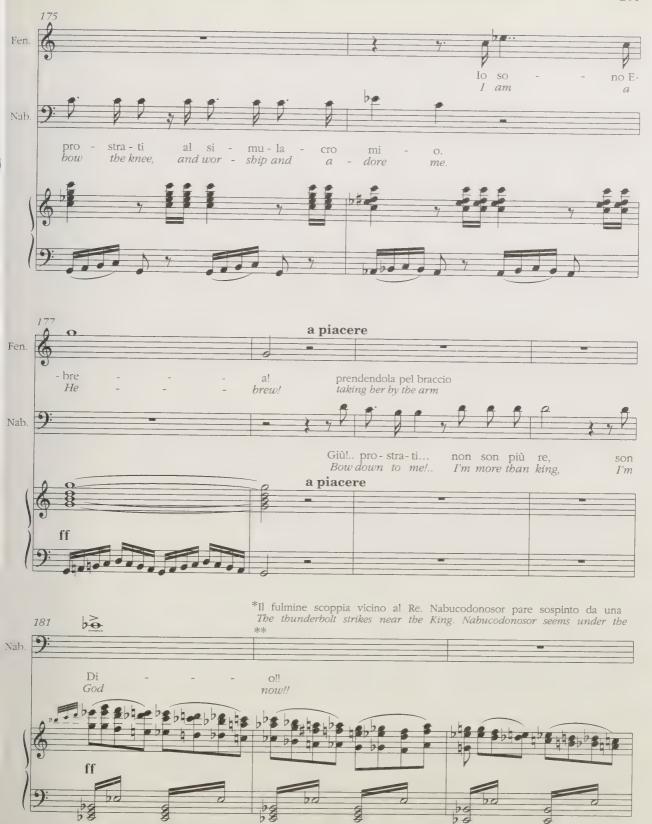




^{**} MI⁴²: Queste parole sono affidate soltanto ad Abd. These words are assigned to Abd. alone.



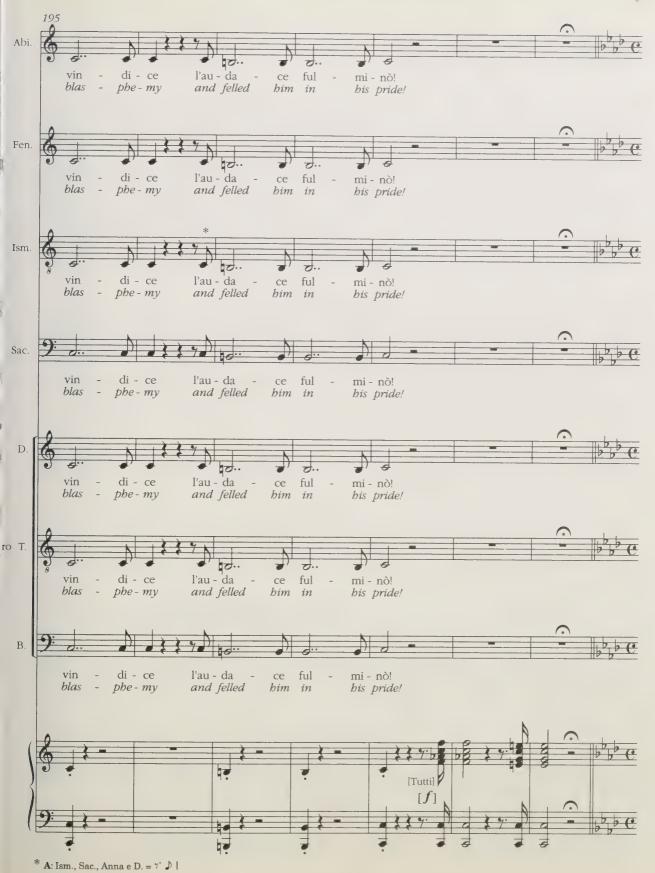


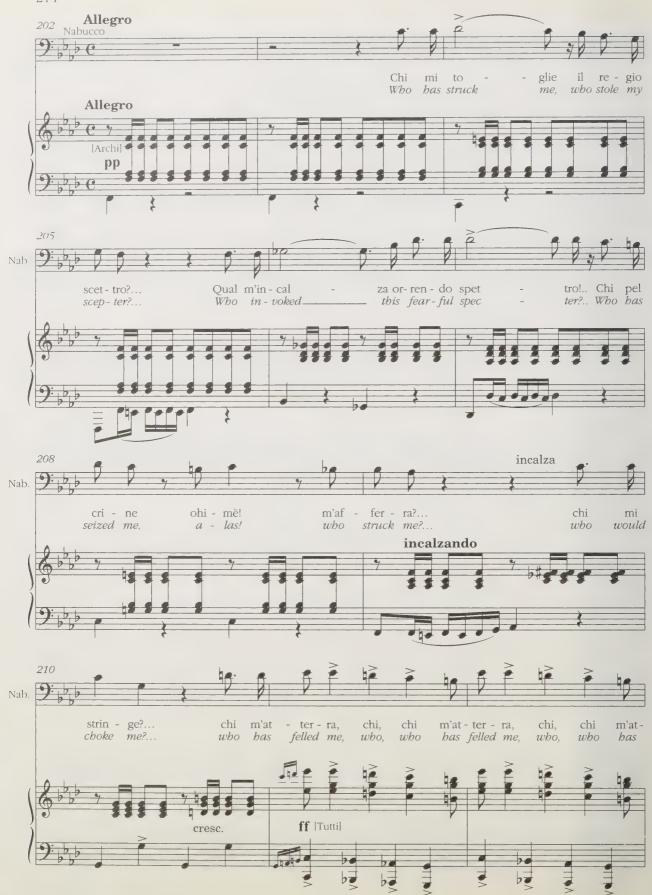


"rumoreggia il tuono, un fulmine scoppia sulla corona del Re. Nabucodonosor atterrito sente strapparsi la corona da una forza soprannaturale; la follia appare in tutti i suoi lineamenti. A tanto scompiglio succede tosto un profondo silenzio."
"a rumble of thunder, and a thunderbolt strikes on the King's crown. Nabucodonosor, terrified, feels the crown snatched from his head by a supernatural force; his demeanor suggests total madness. The confusion is succeeded by a profound silence."

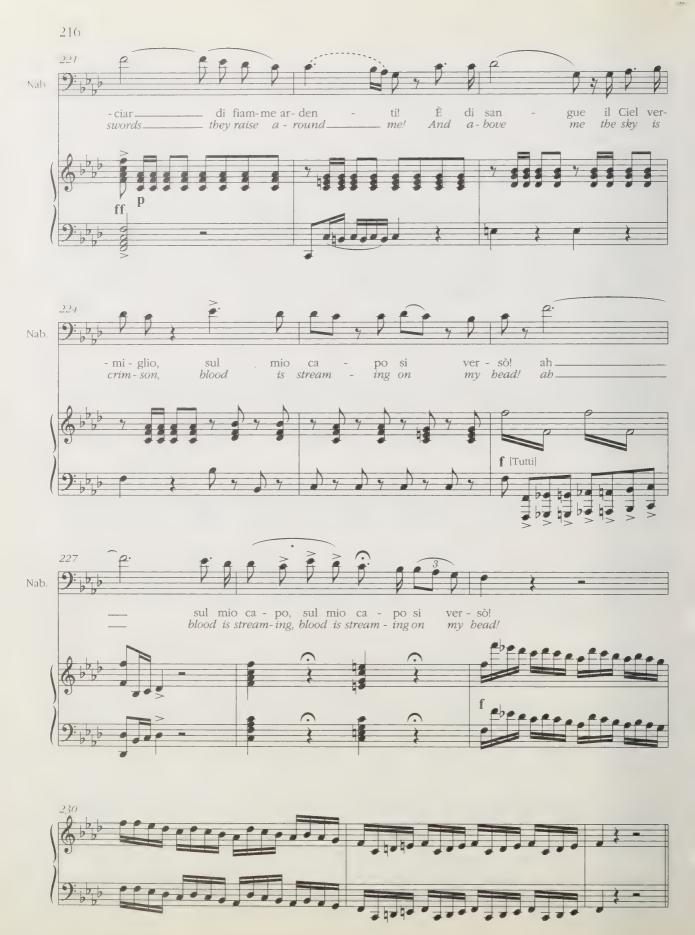
^{**} Vedi Note. See Notes.

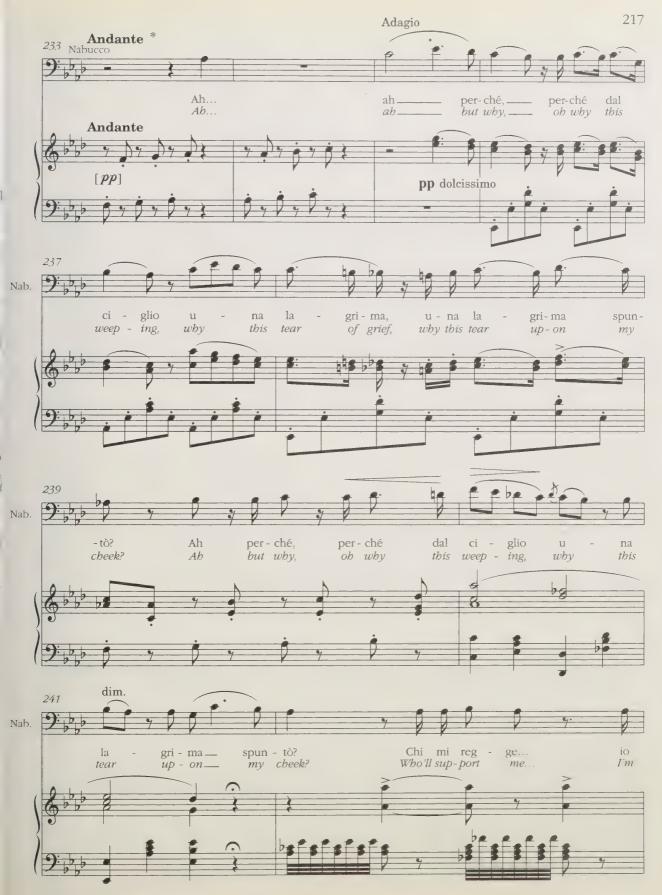


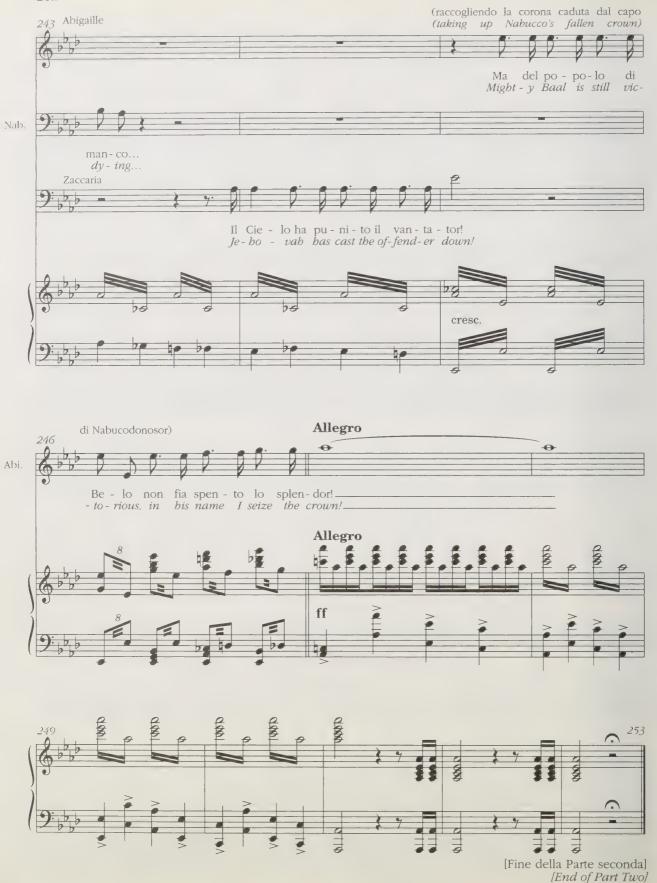












PARTE TERZA

(La profezia) N. 9. Introduzione

> (Le fiere dei deserti avranno in Babilonia la loro stanza insieme coi gufi, e l'ulule vi dimoreranno.

Gerem. L)

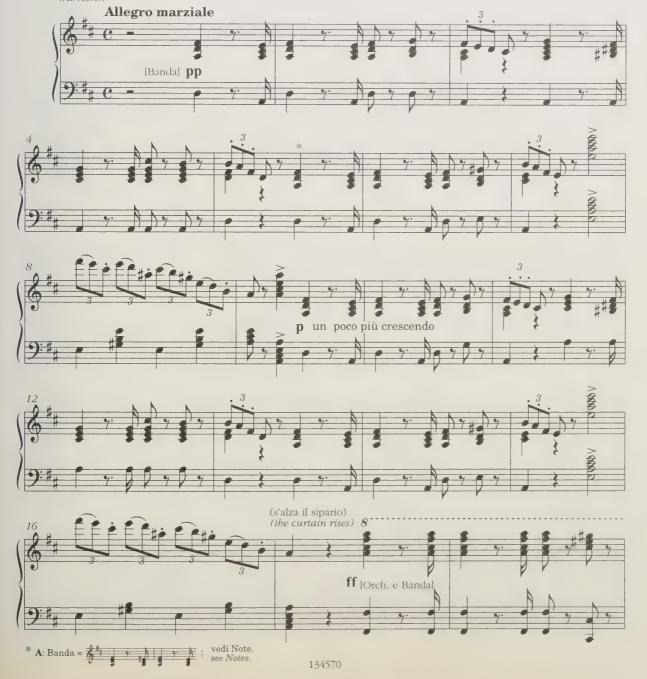
PART THREE

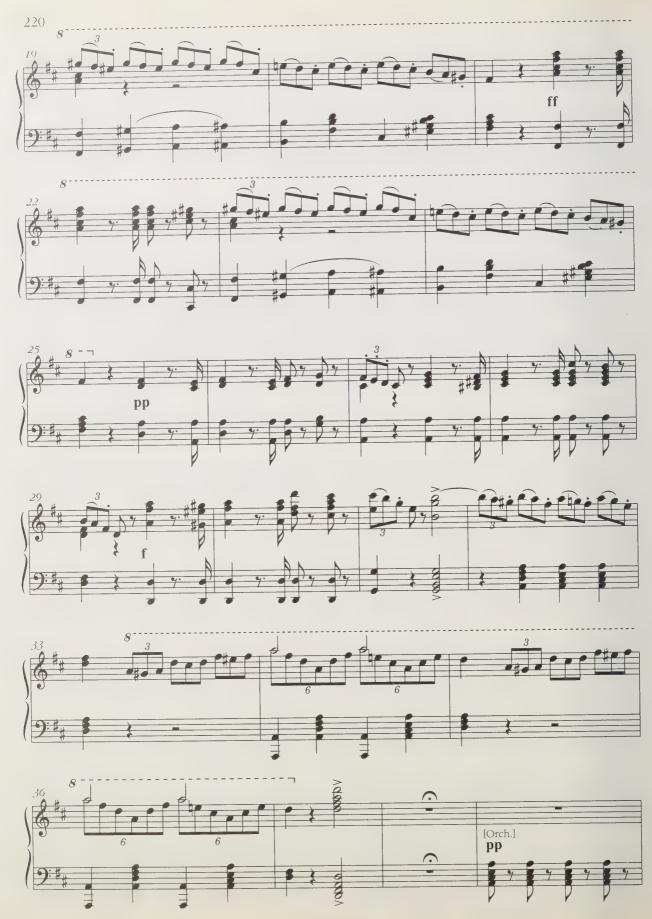
(The Prophecy) N. 9. Introduction

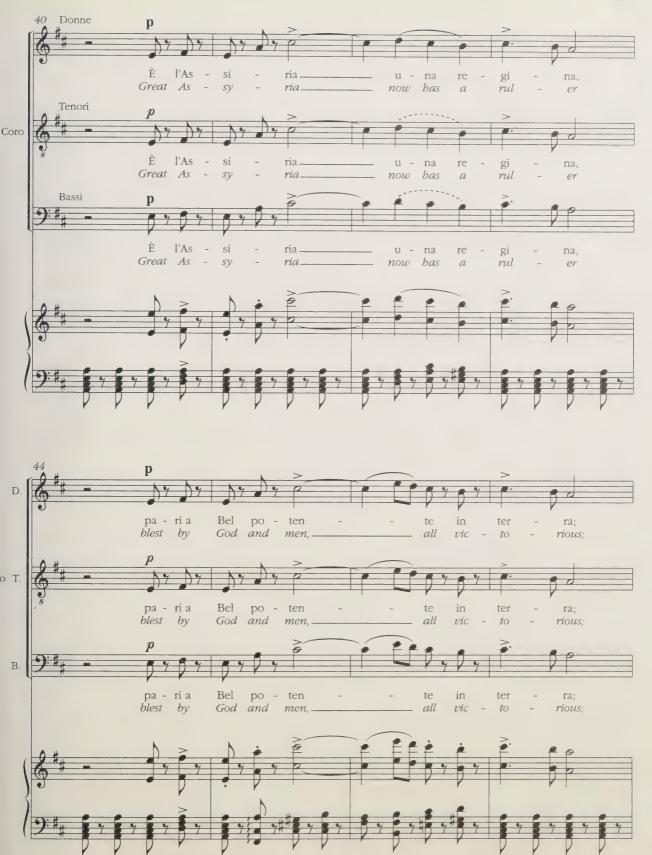
(The wild beasts of the desert shall dwell there, and the owls dwell therein.

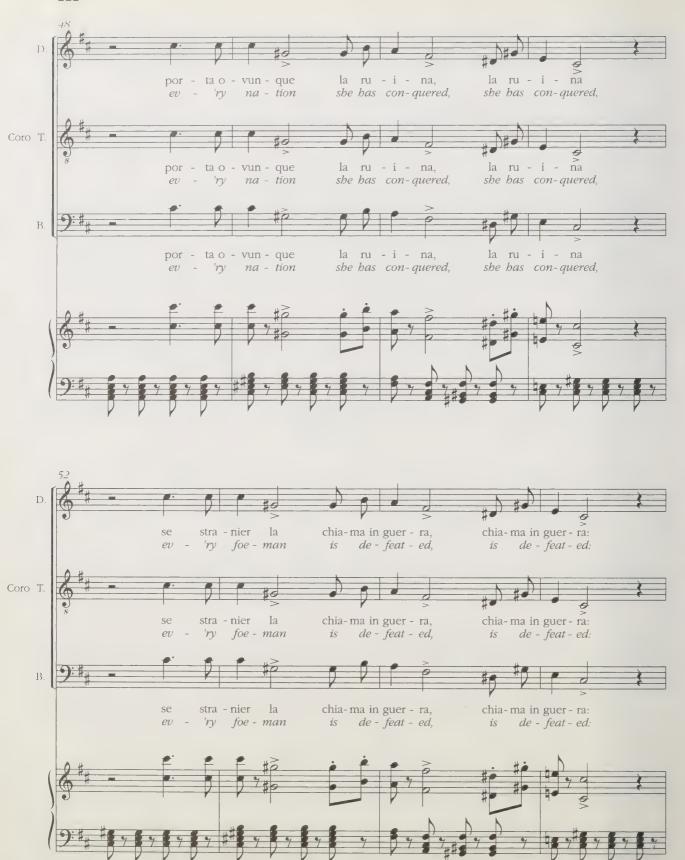
Jeremiah, L.)

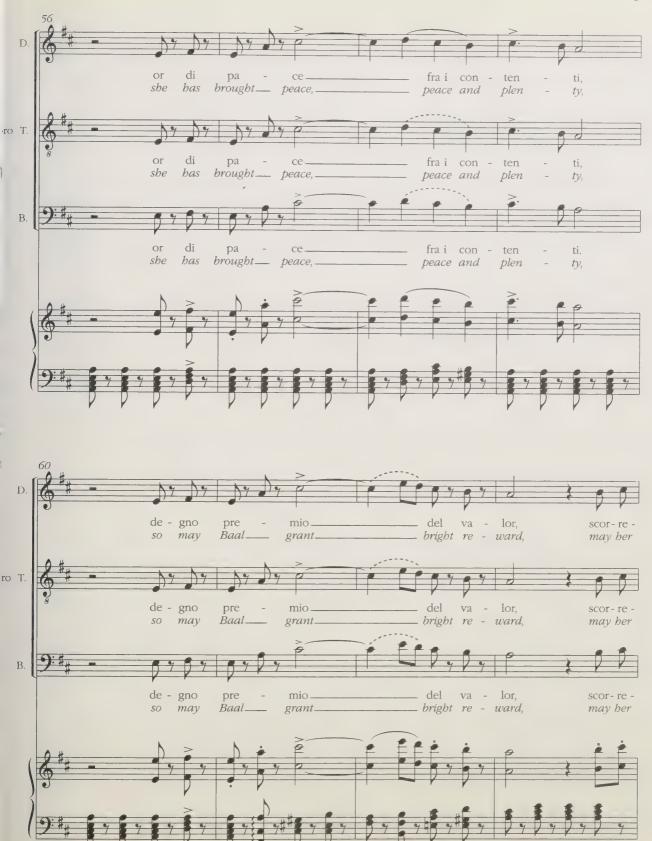
(SCENA PRIMA: Orti pensili. Abigaille è sul trono. I Magi, i Grandi sono assisi a' di lei piedi; vicino all'ara ove s'erge la statua d'oro di Belo sta coi seguaci il Gran Sacerdote. Donne babilonesi, Popolo, Soldati)
(SCENE ONE: The Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Abigaille on the throne, Magi, Nobles, seated at her feet; near the altar, where rises the golden statue of Baal, stands the High Priest with his followers. Babylonian women, Populace, and Warriors.)

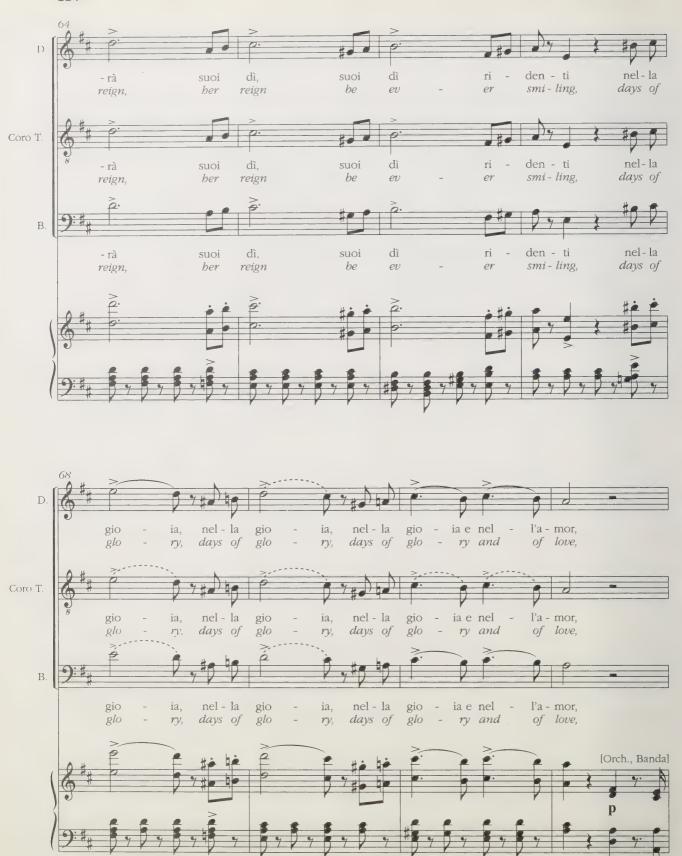


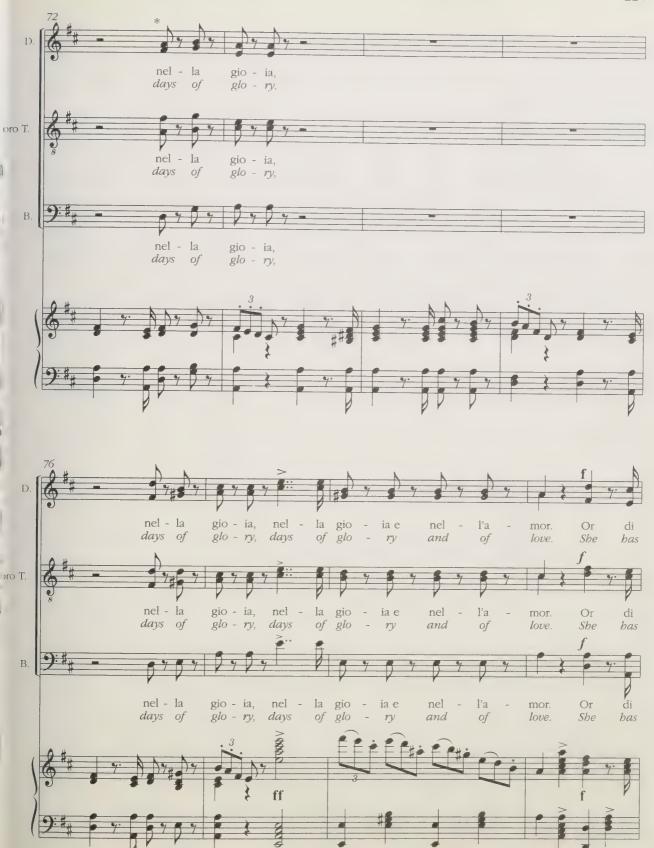




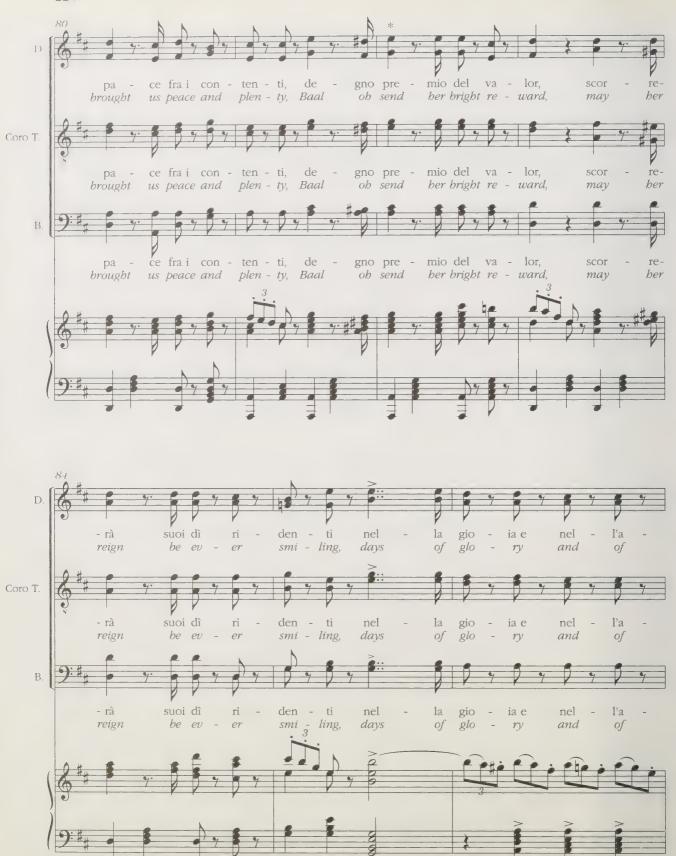




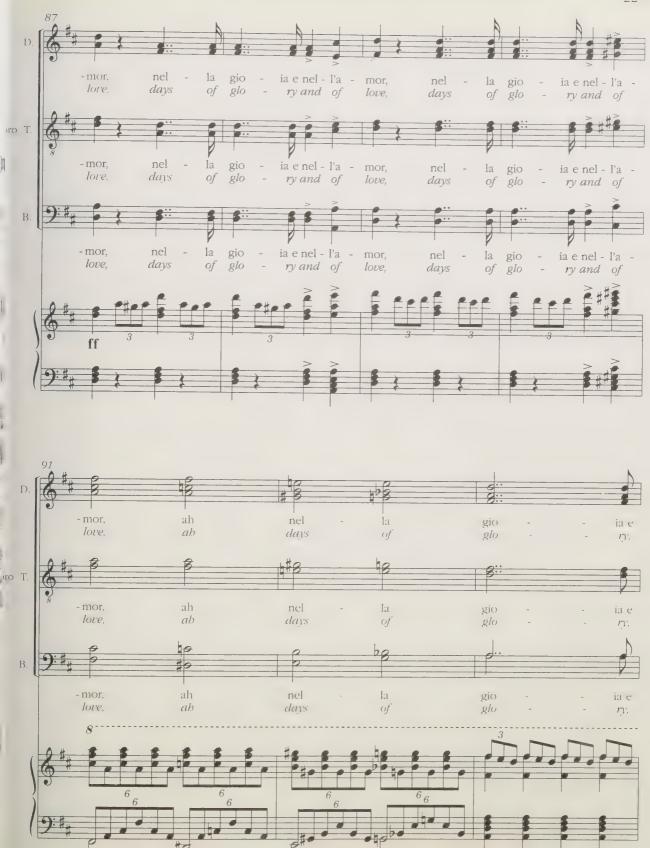


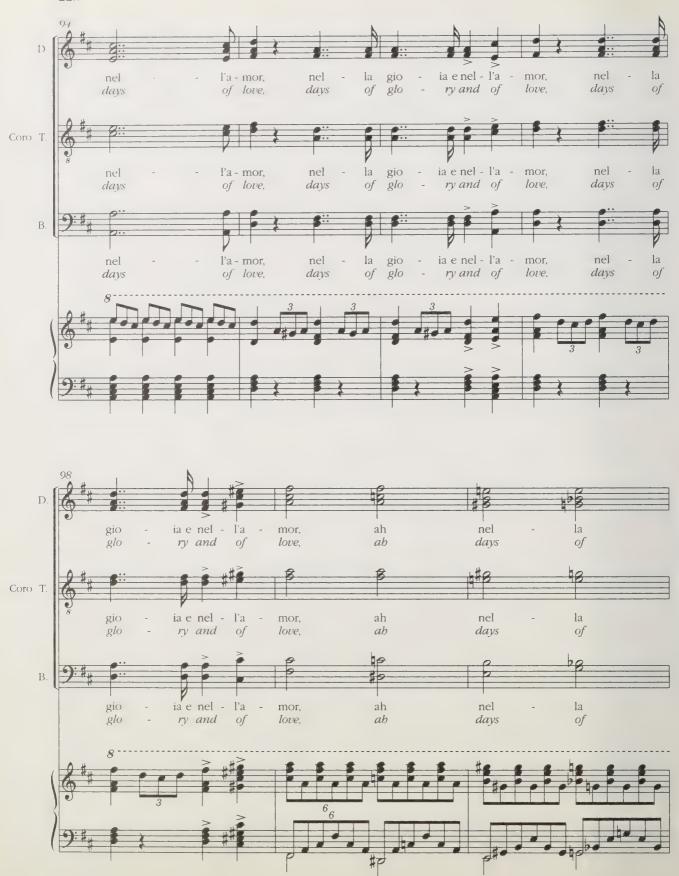


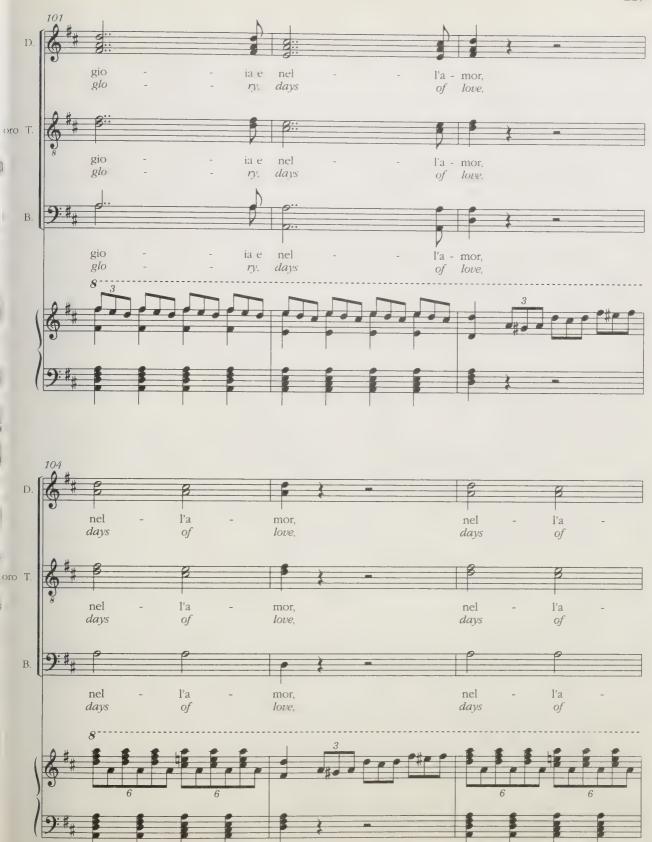
* A. Le parole a 72-112 riflettono una versione primitiva che Verdi non ha corretto; vedi Nota 56-112. The text at 72-112 is an uncorrected early version; see Note 56-112.



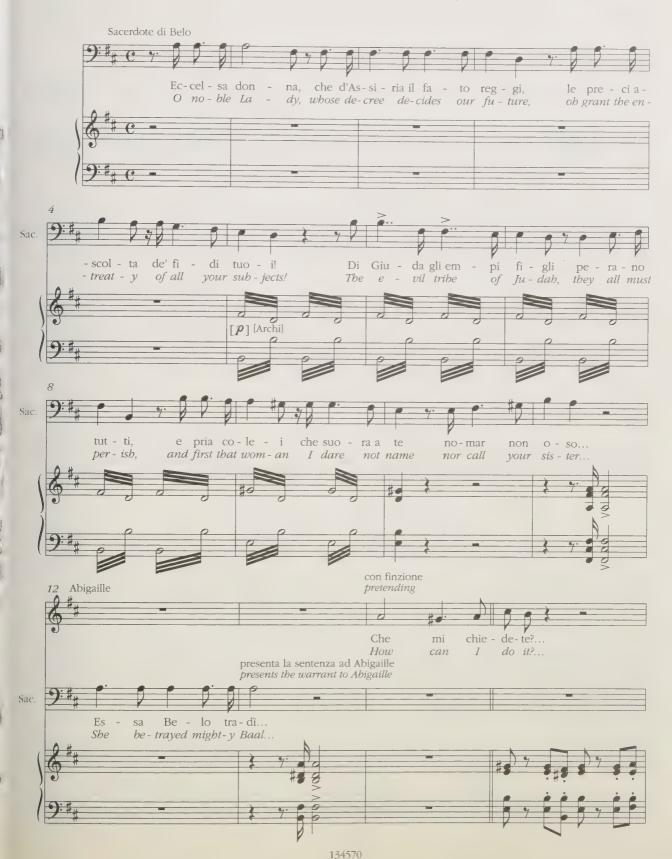
* A. Per le parti del Coro a 82-85, vedi Note. The choral parts at 82-85 are discussed in the Notes.



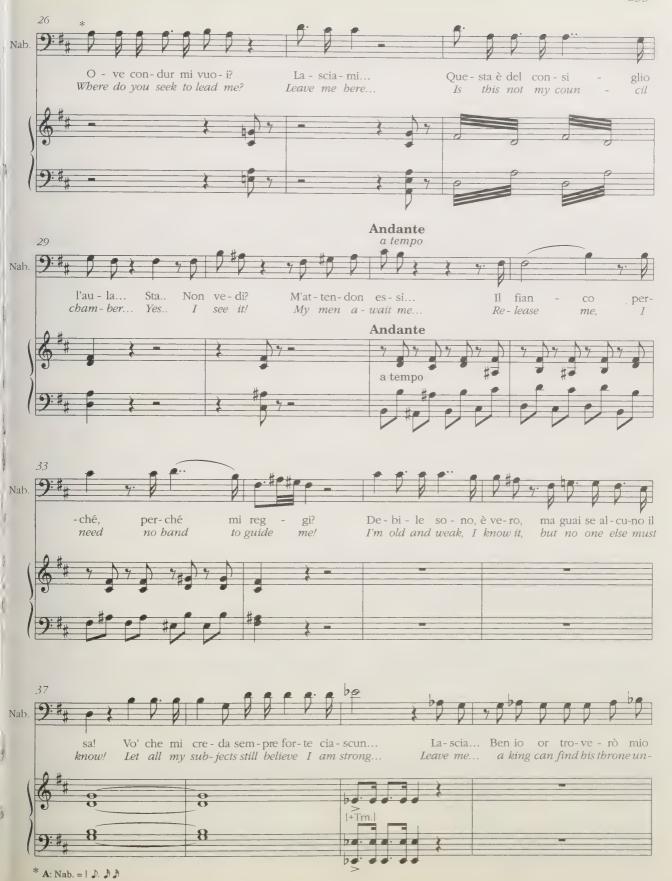






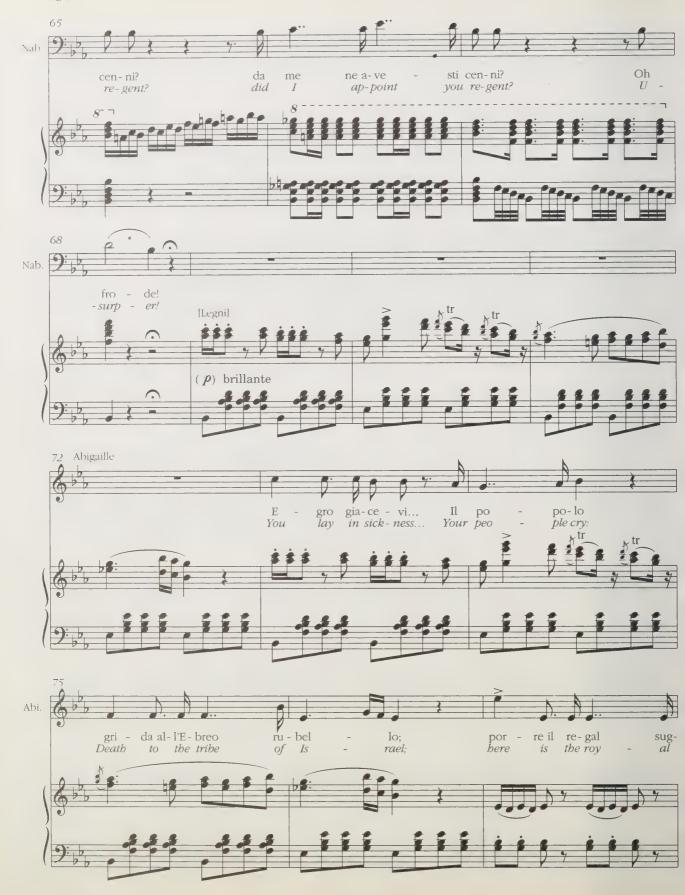






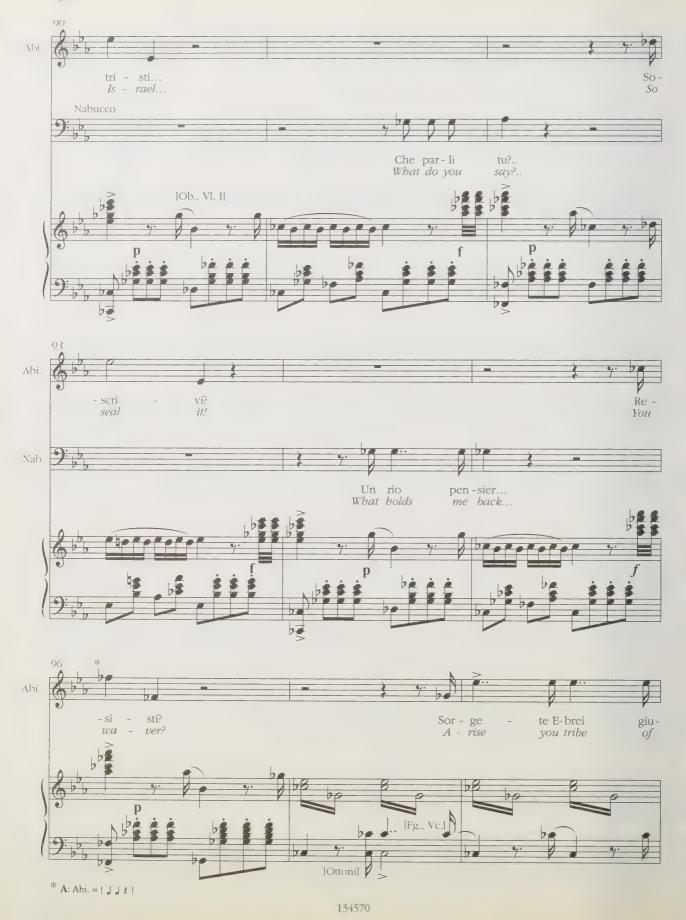


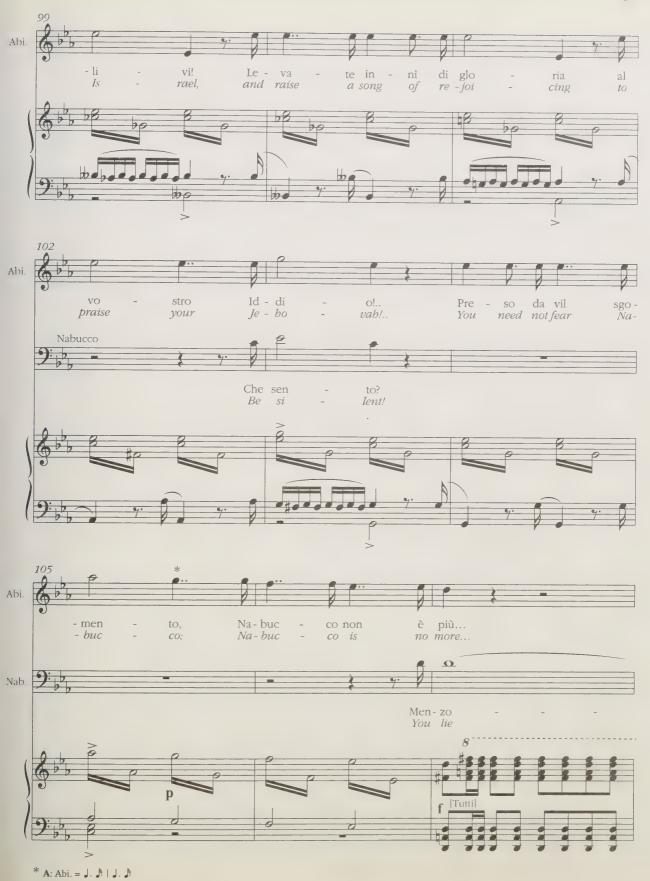






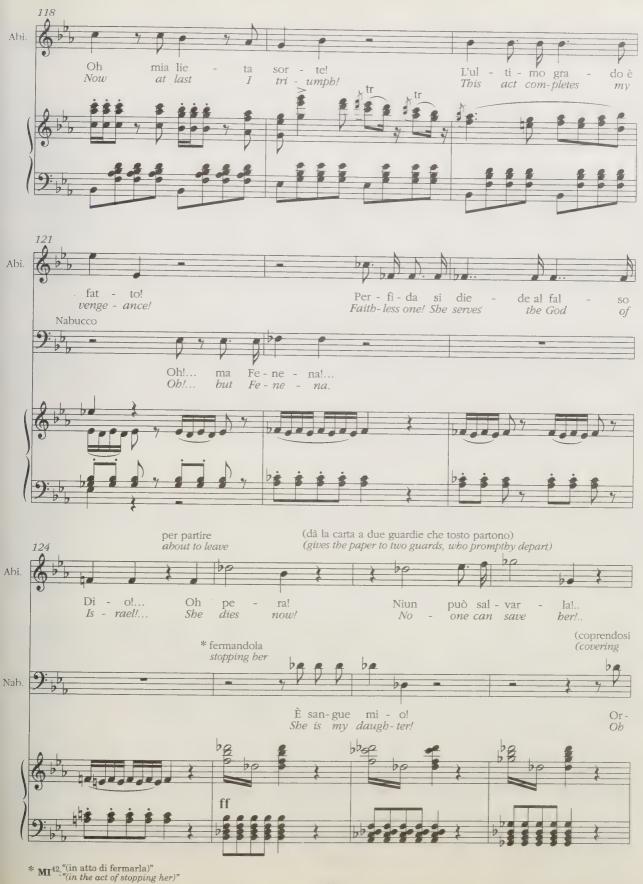
7 4 4





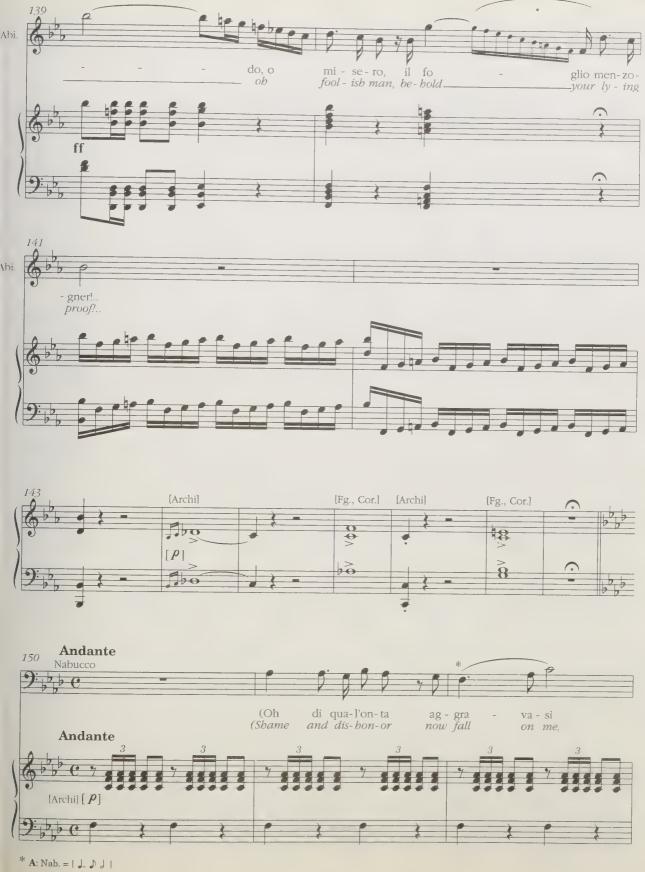


* MI^{42} . "(pone l'anello reale intorno la carta, e la riconsegna ad Abigaille)"

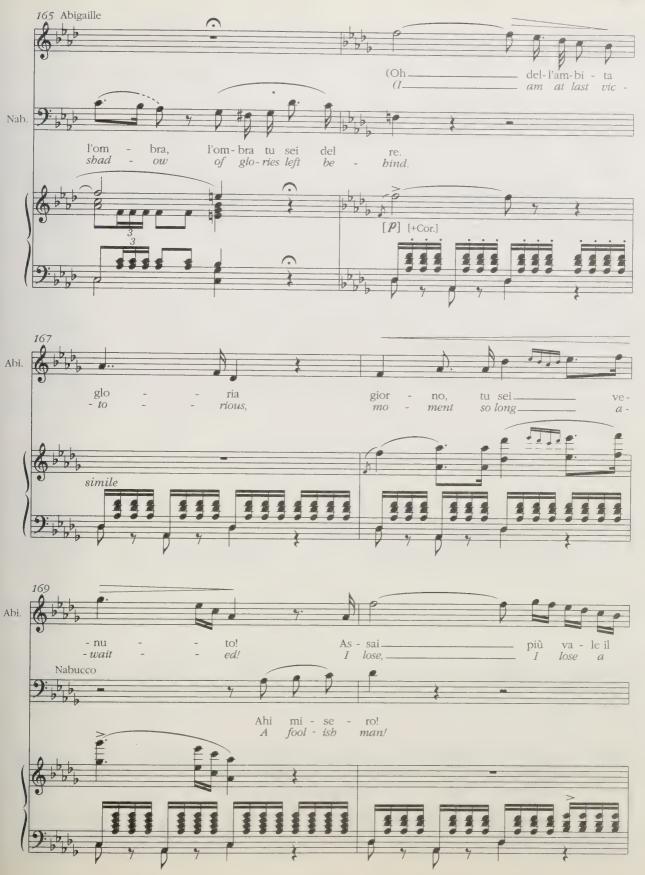


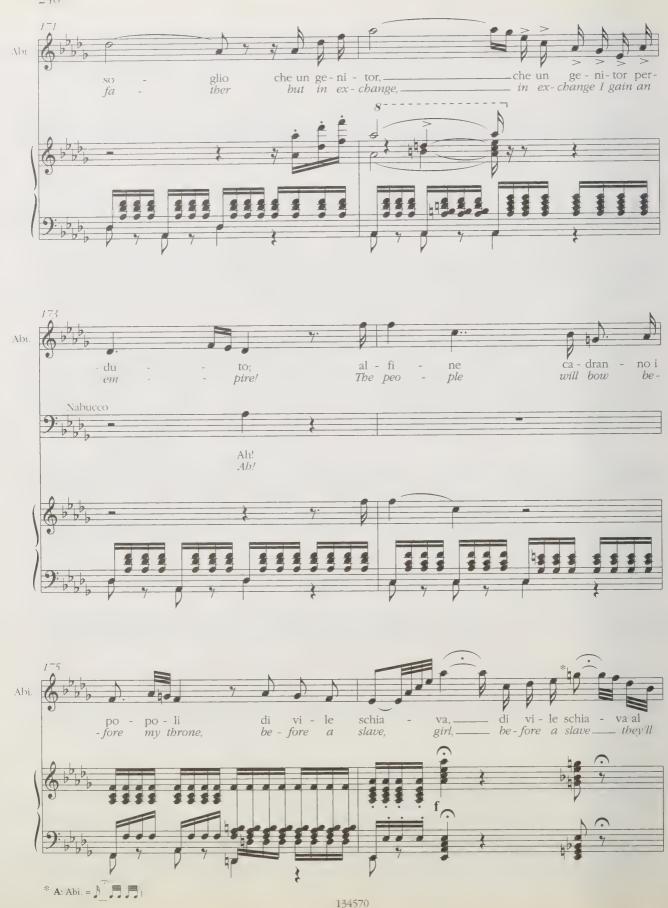


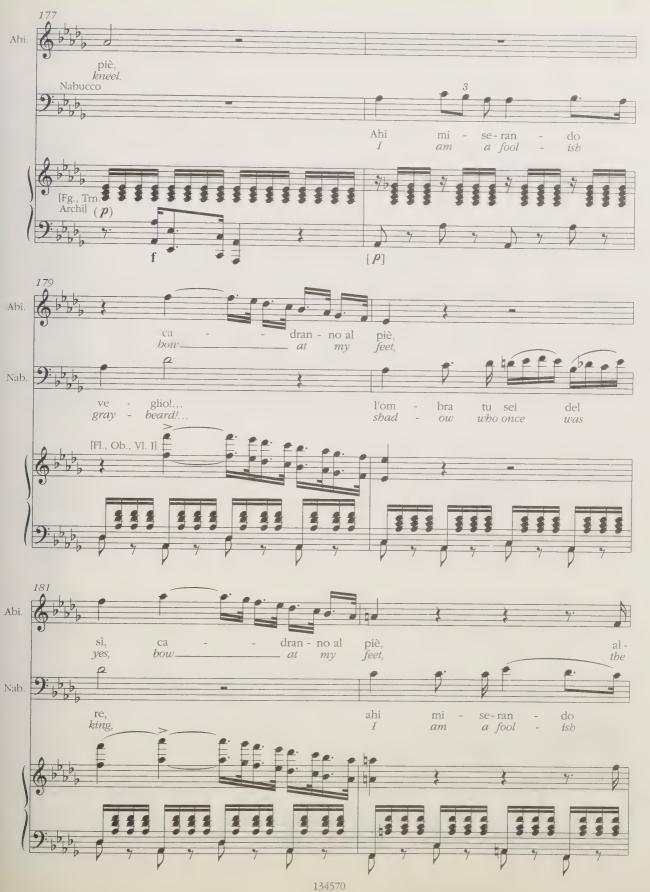


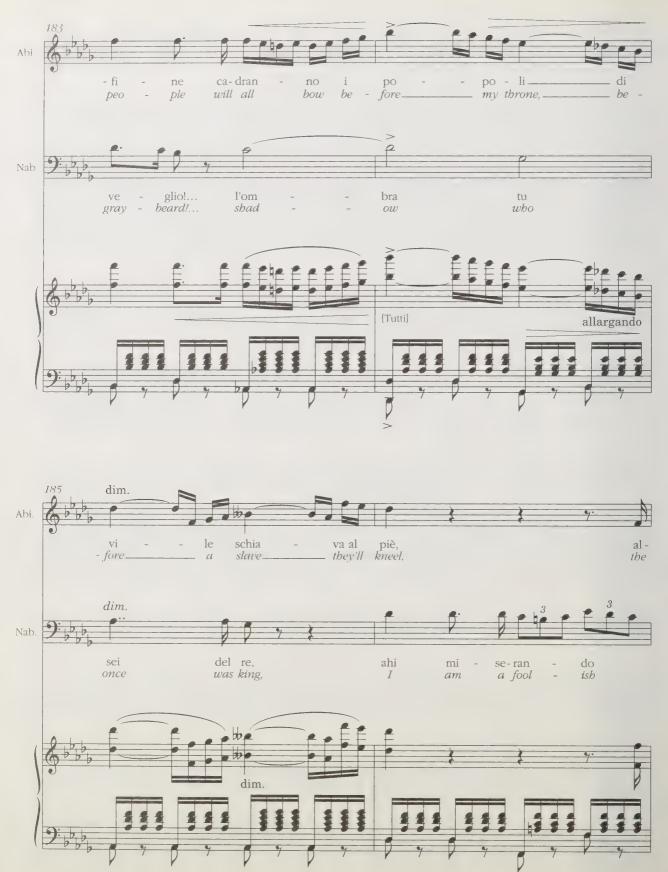




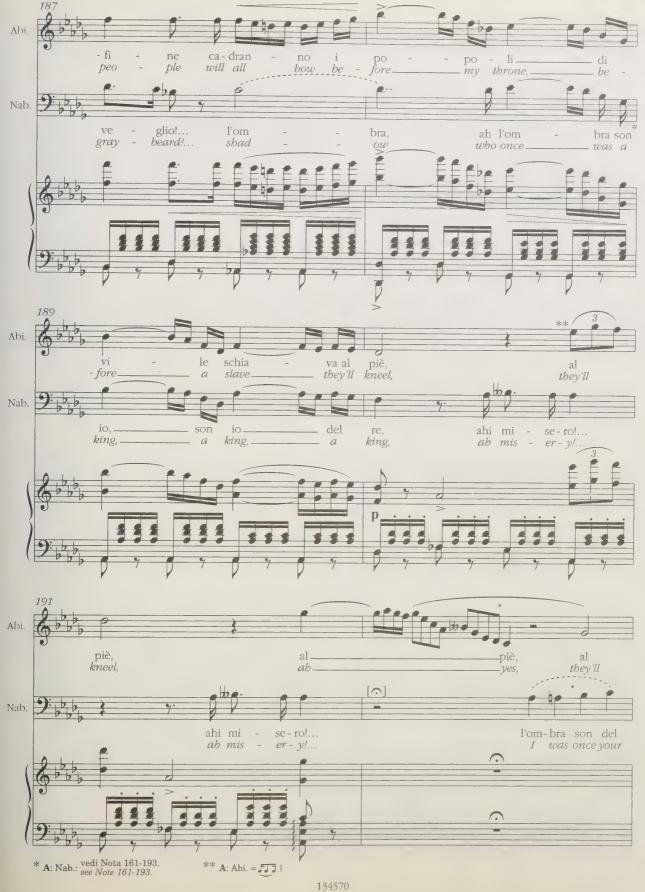




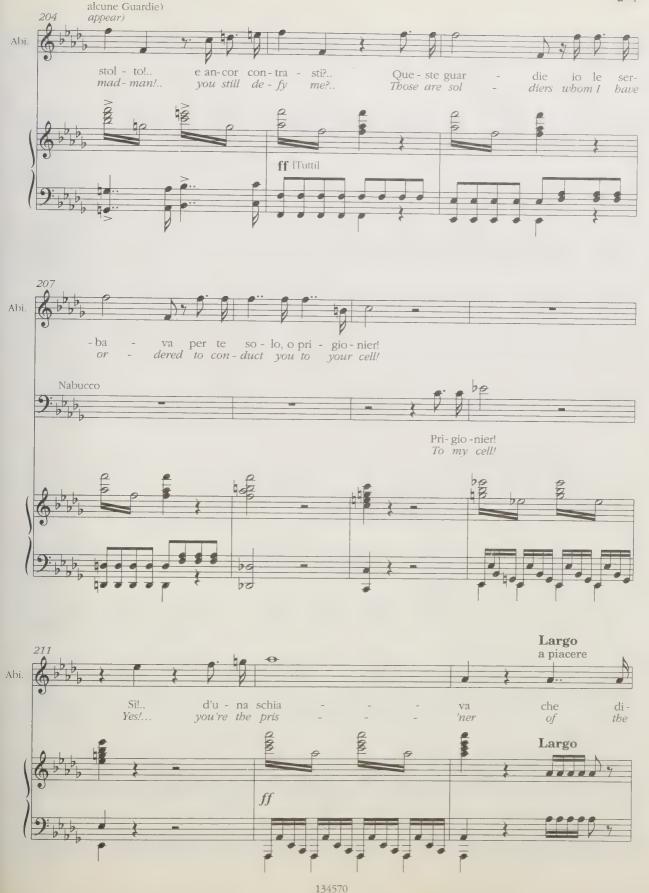




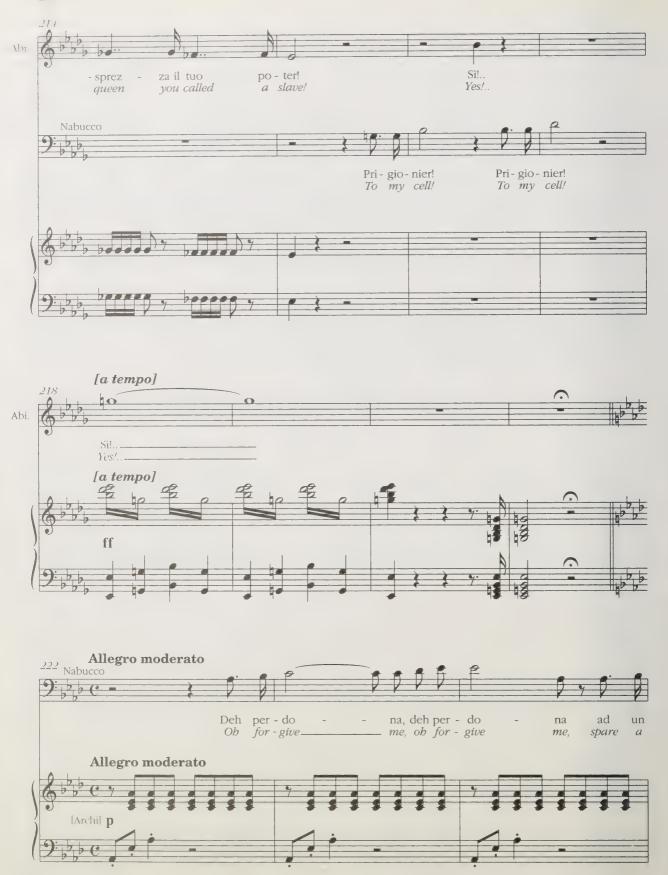


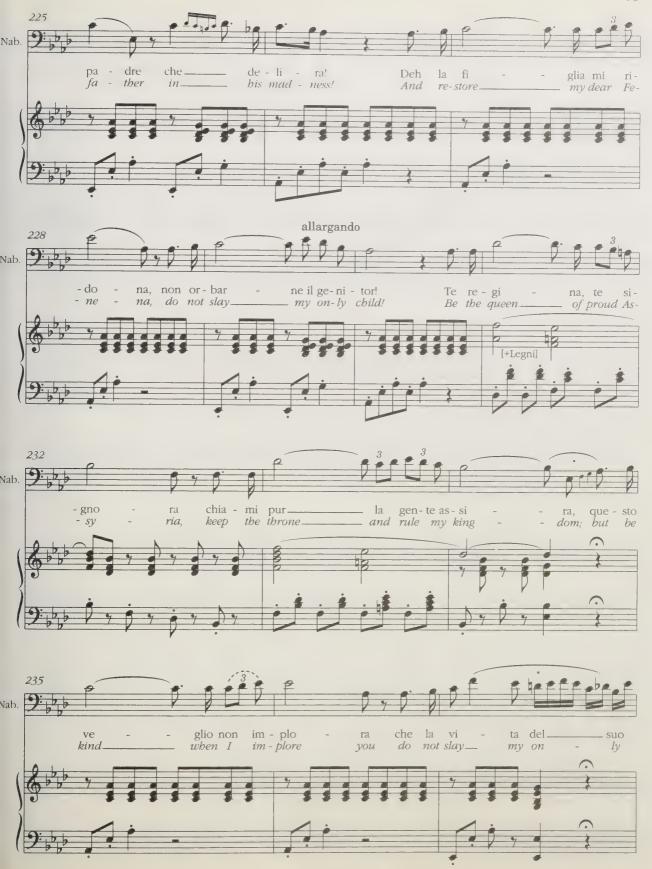


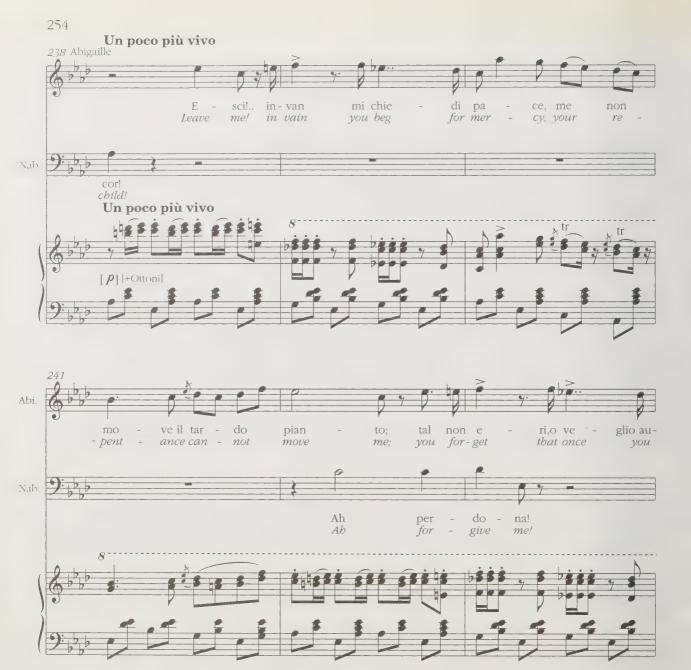




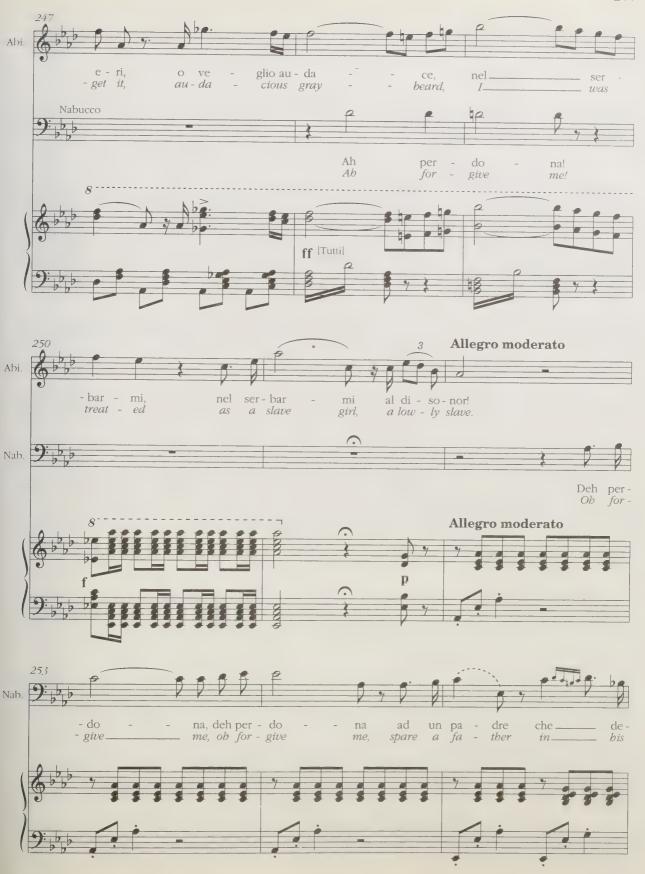


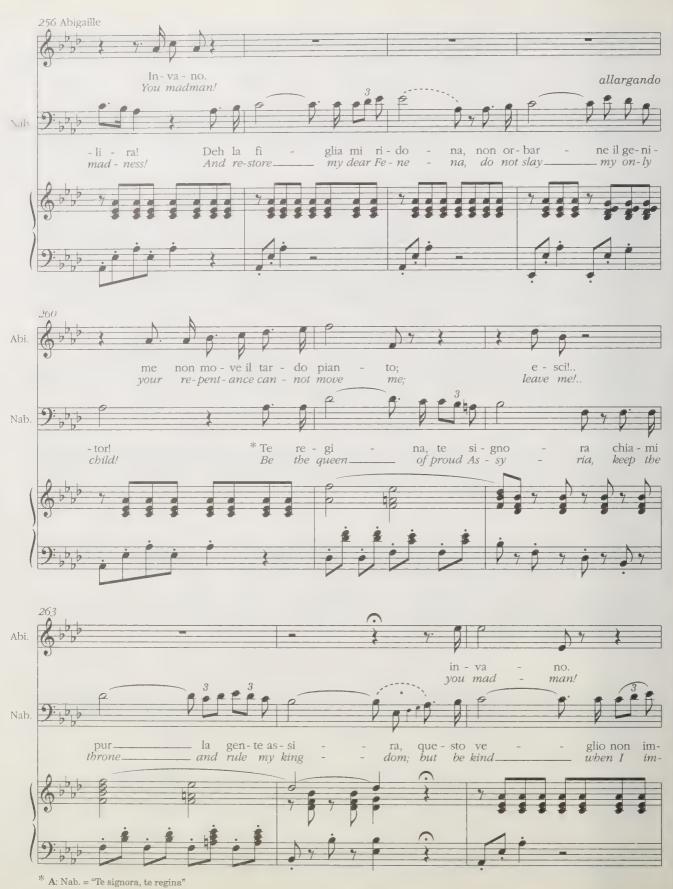


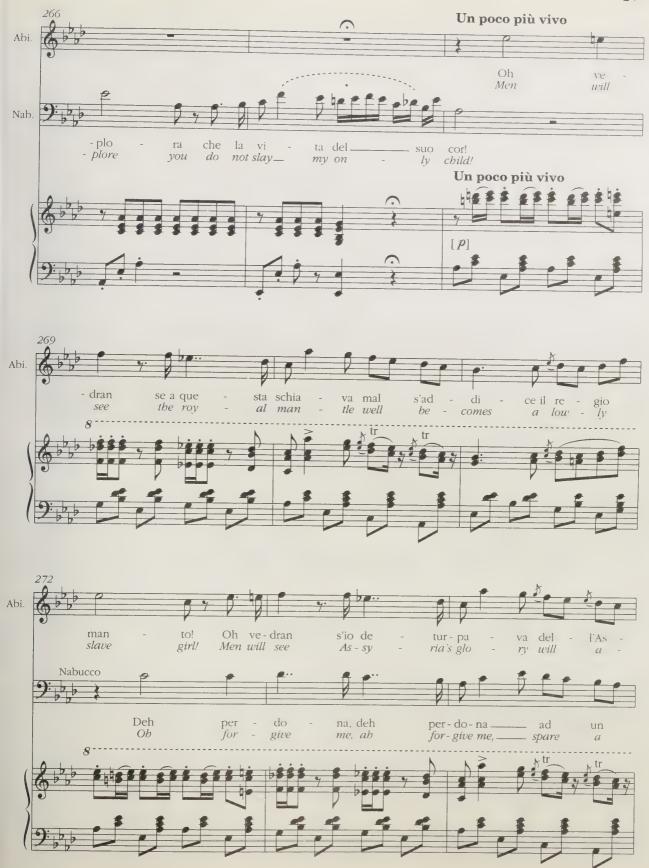


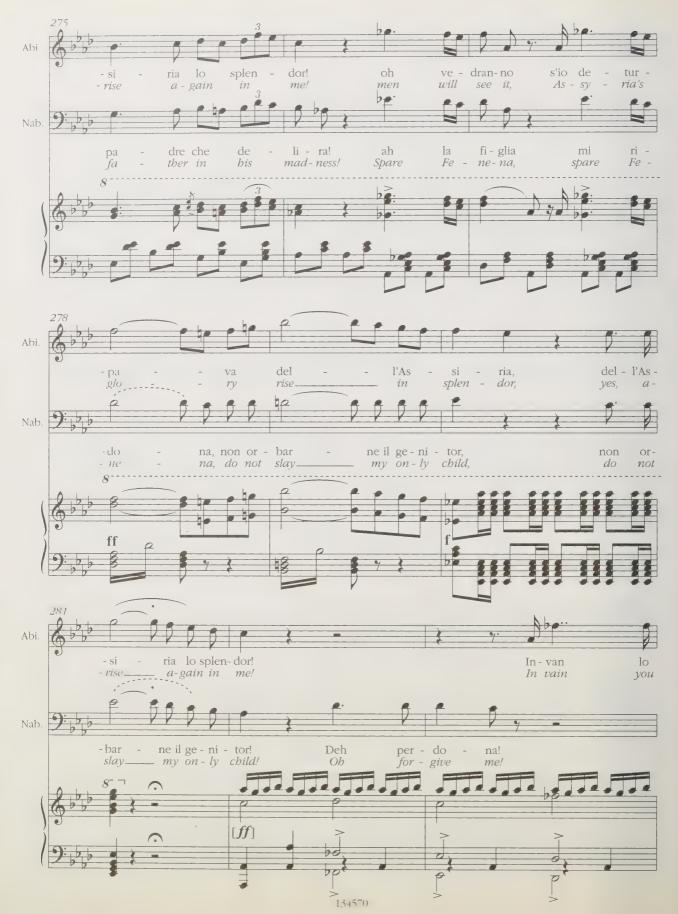


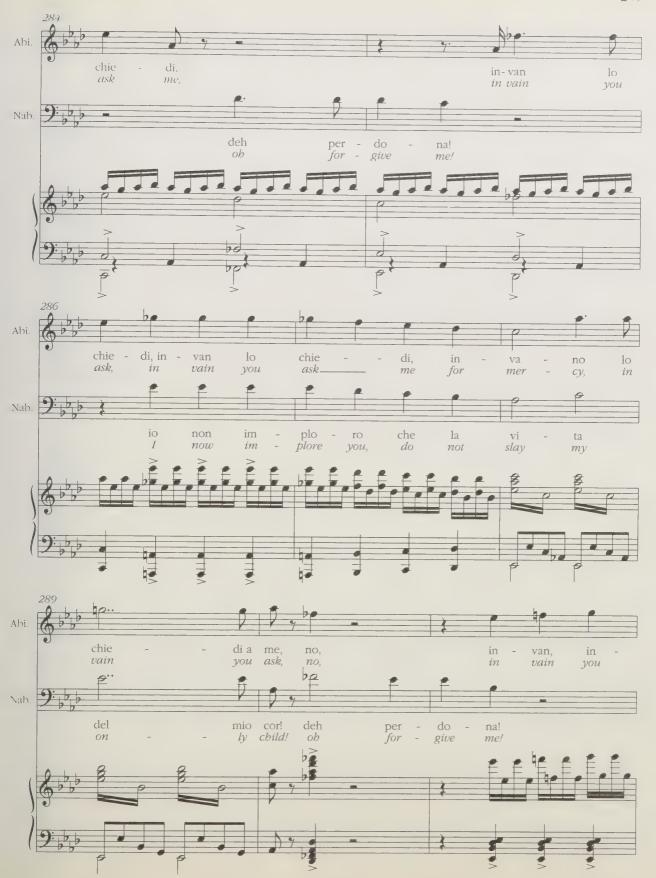












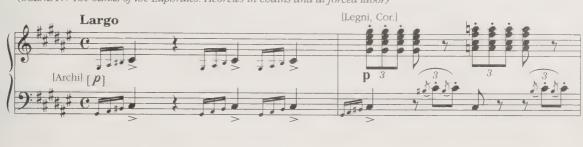
134570



N. 11. Coro e Profezia

N. 11. Chorus and Prophecy

(SCENA IV: Le sponde dell'Eufrate. Ebrei incatenati e costretti al lavoro) (SCENE IV: The banks of the Euphrates. Hebrews in chains and at forced labor)

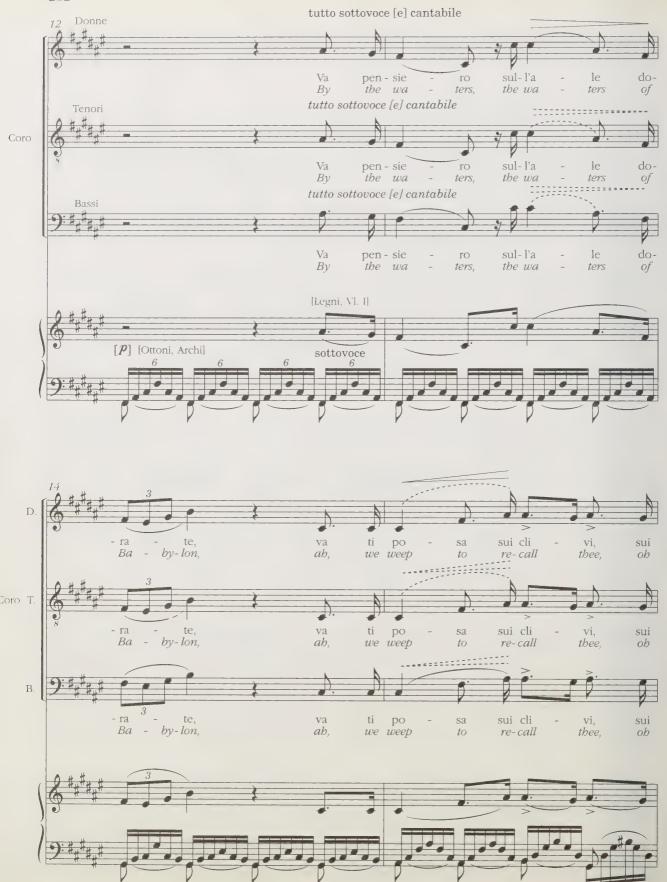


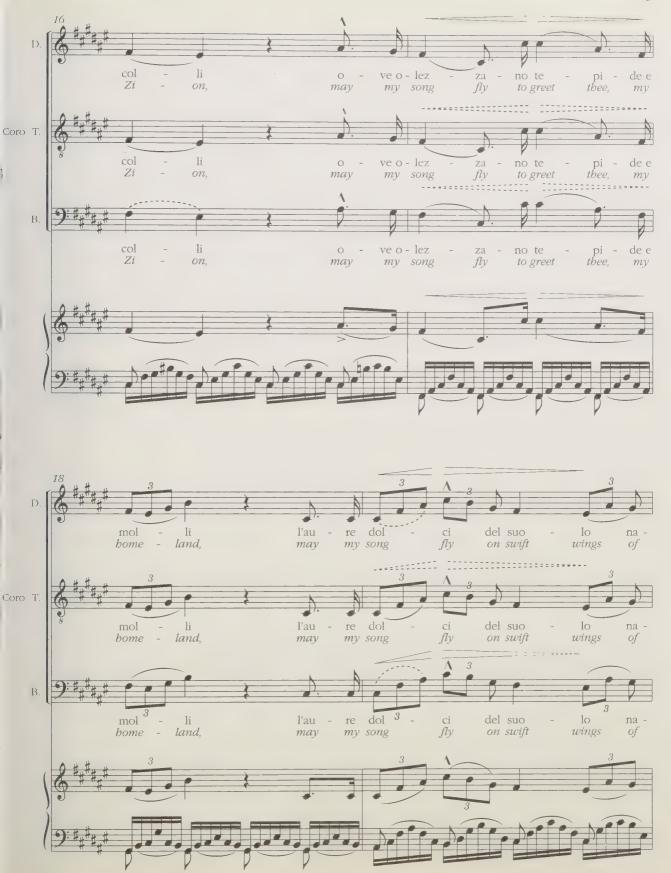




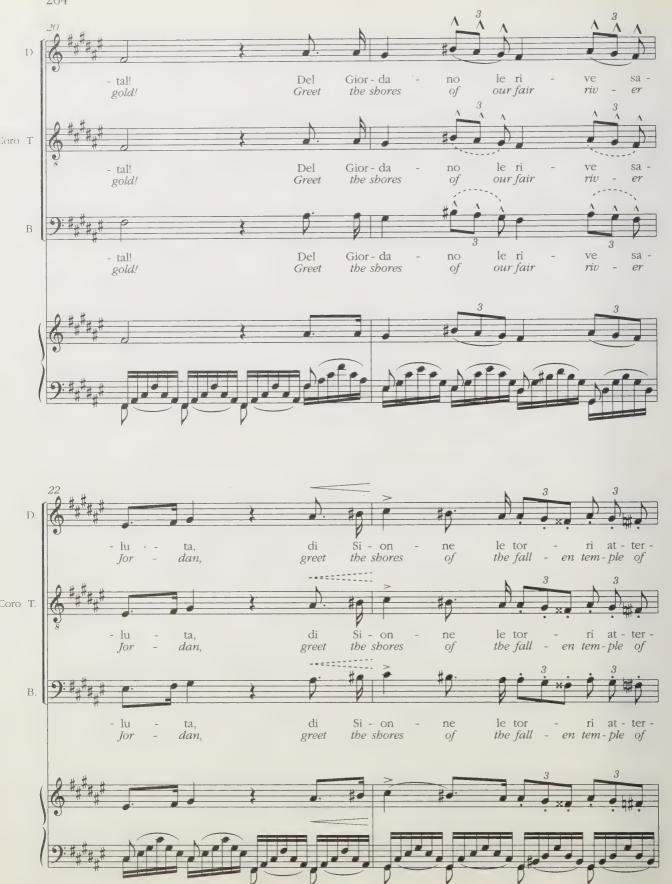


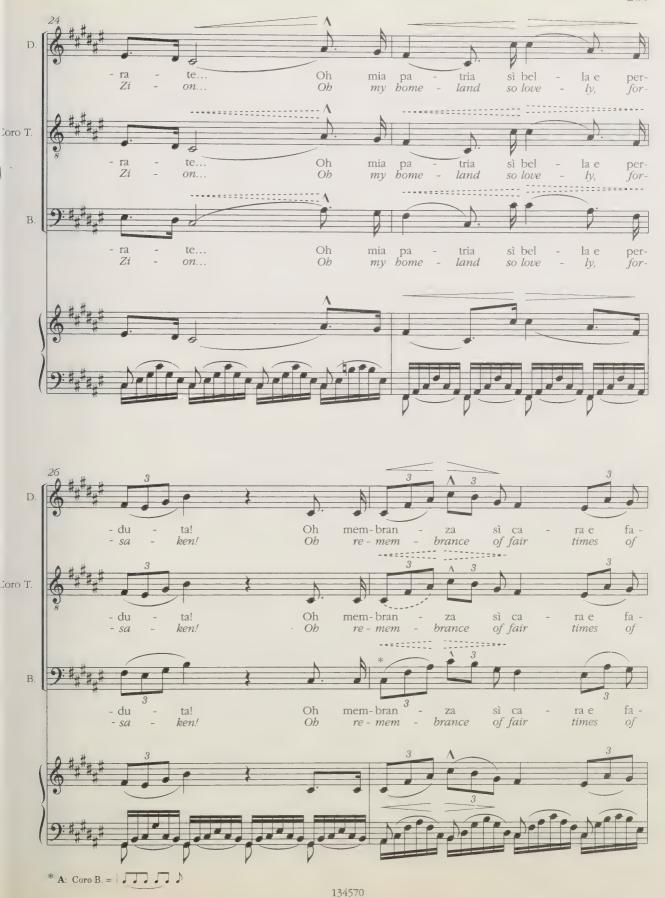




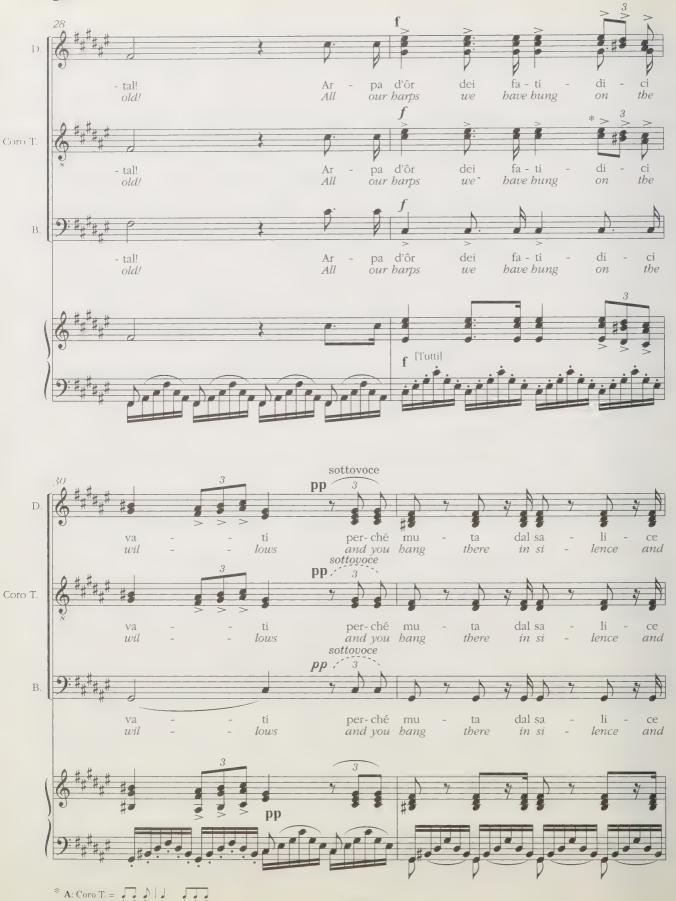


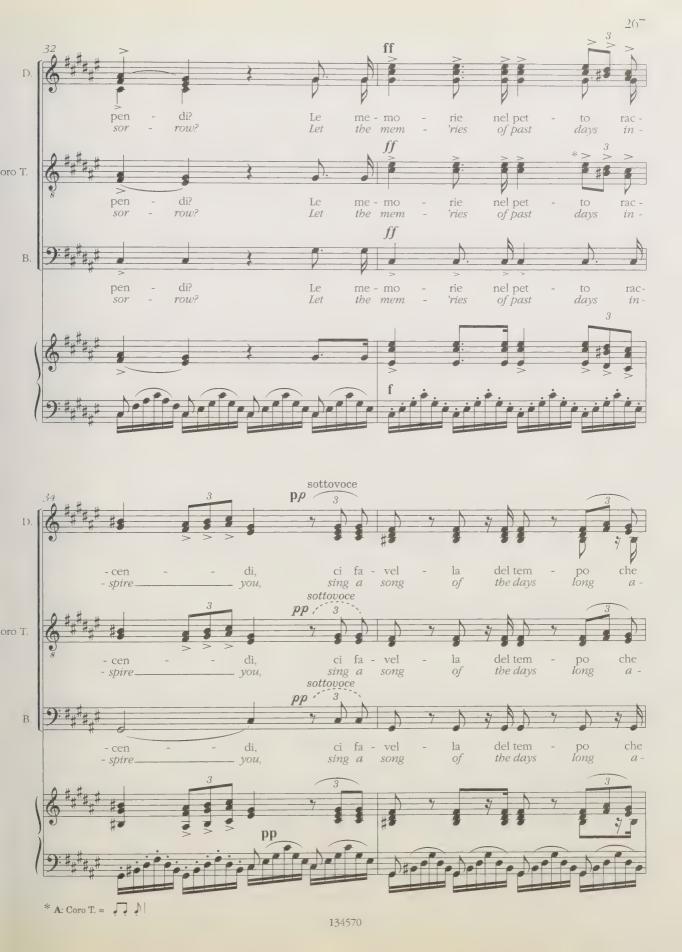




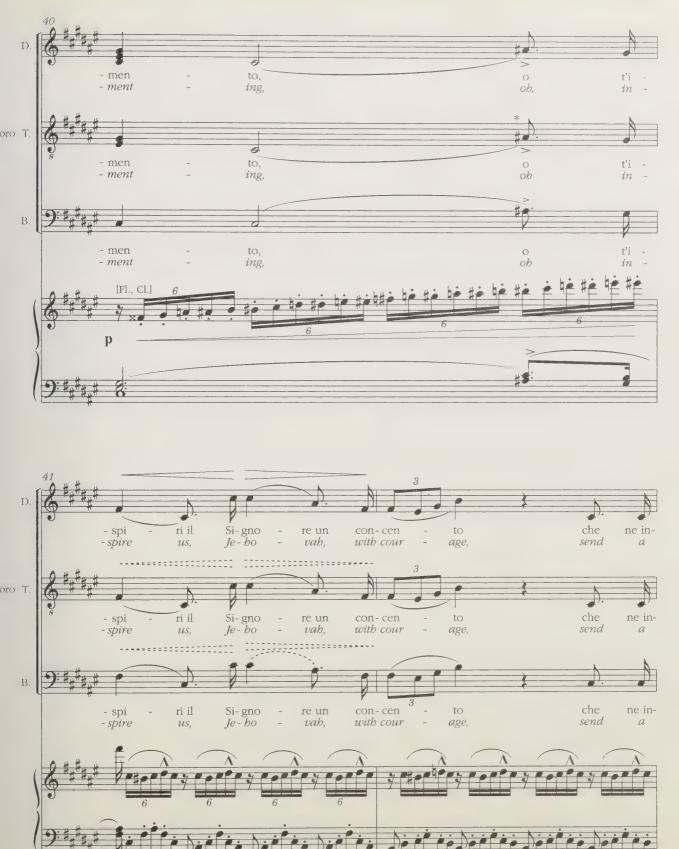




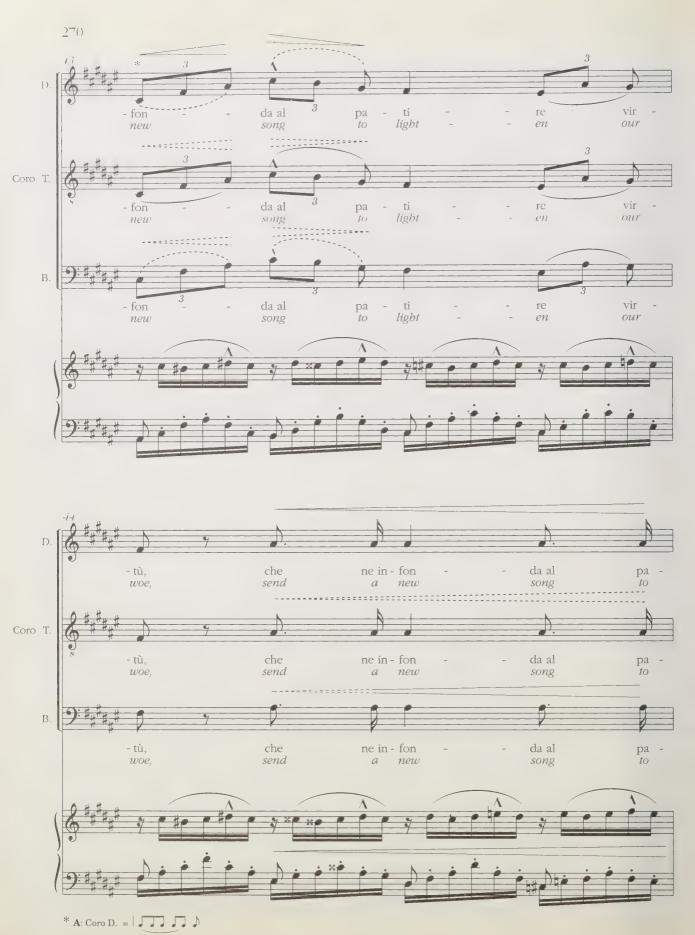


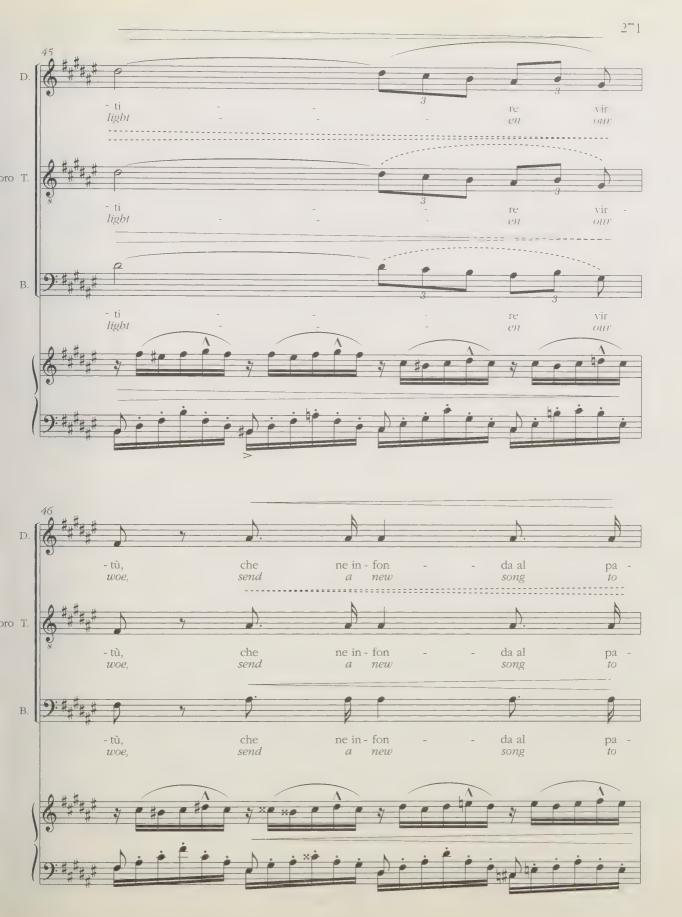


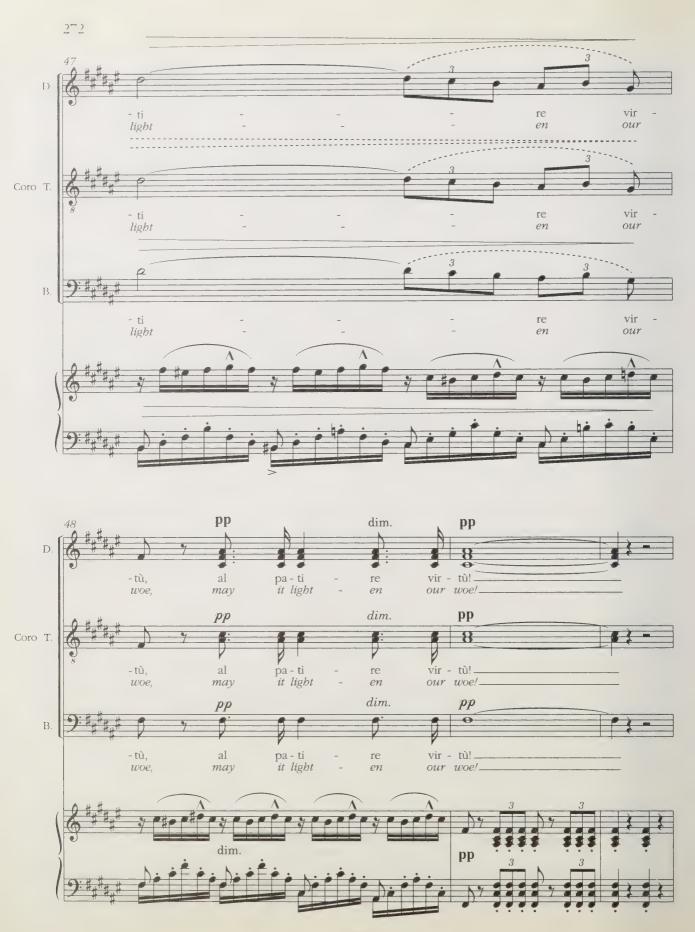


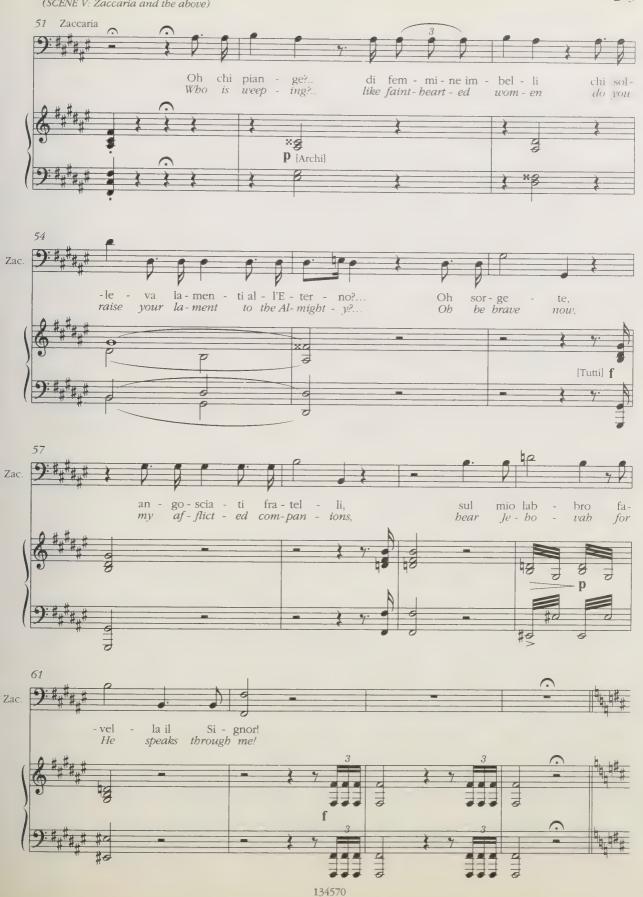


* A: Coro T. = .



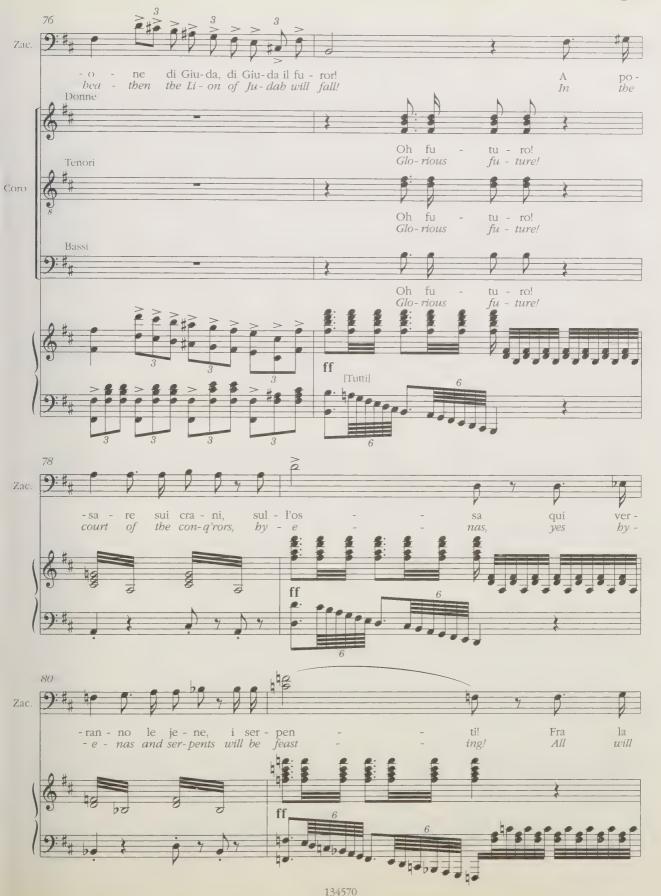


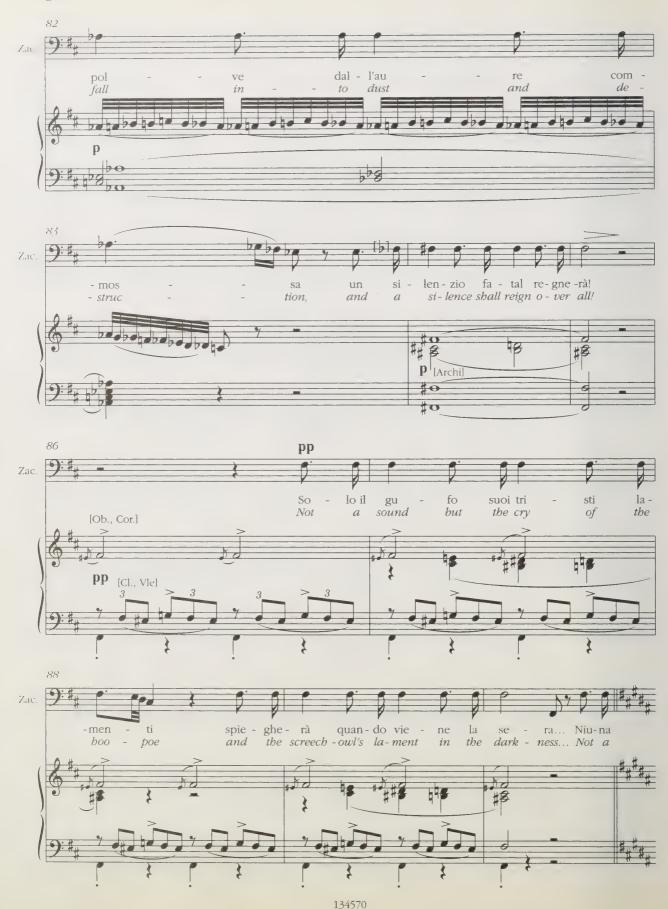


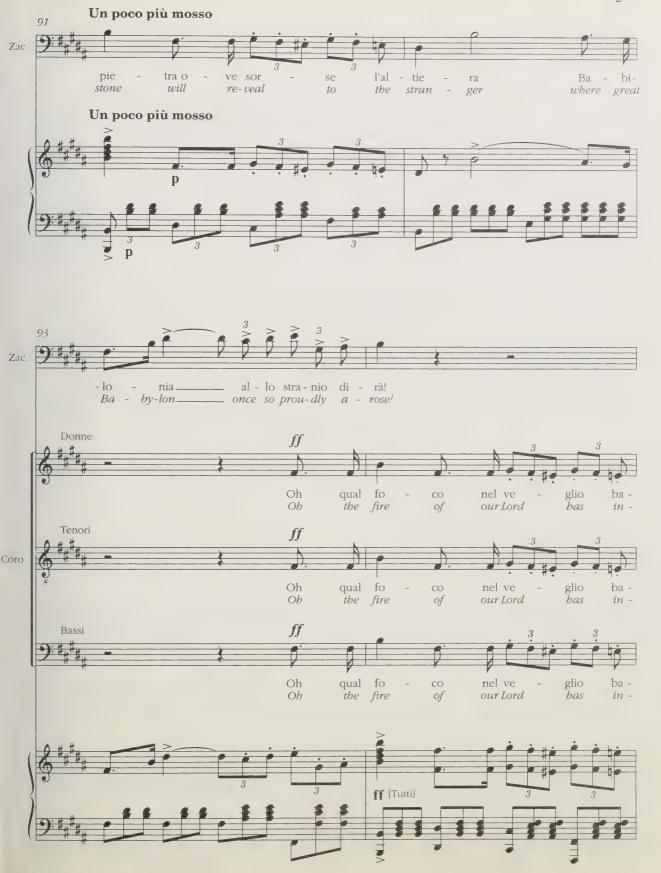


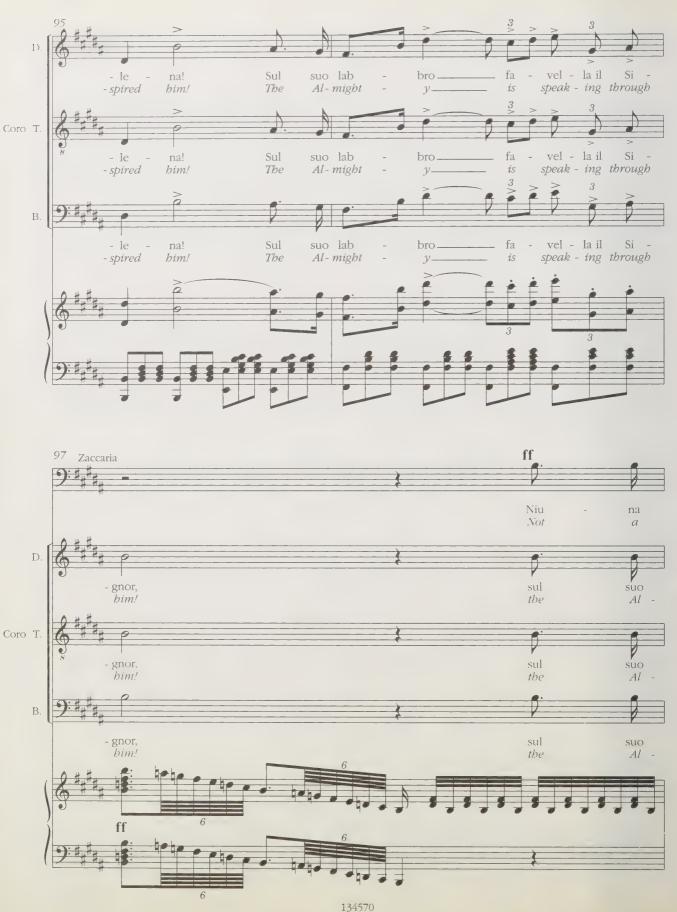


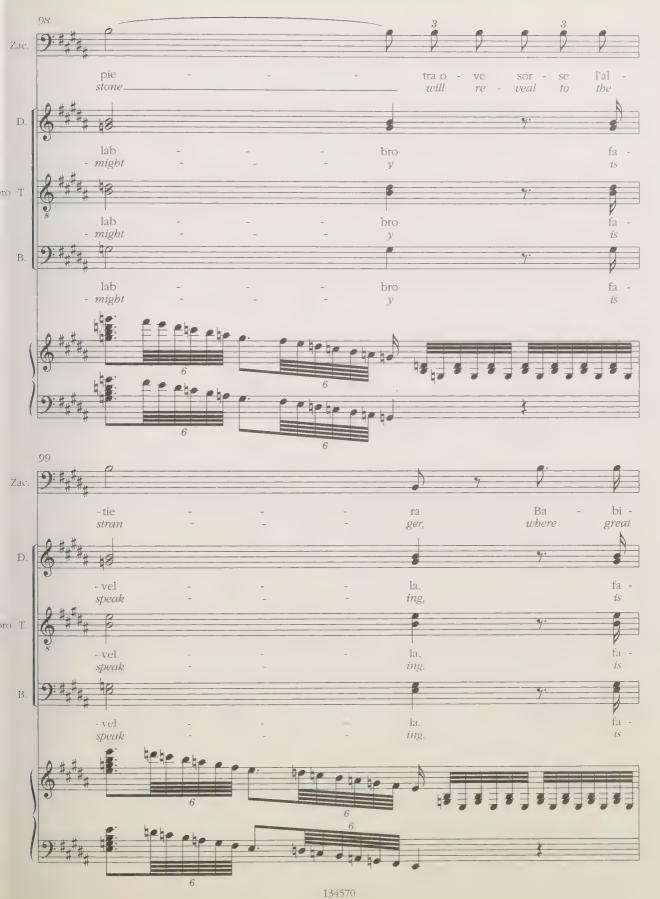


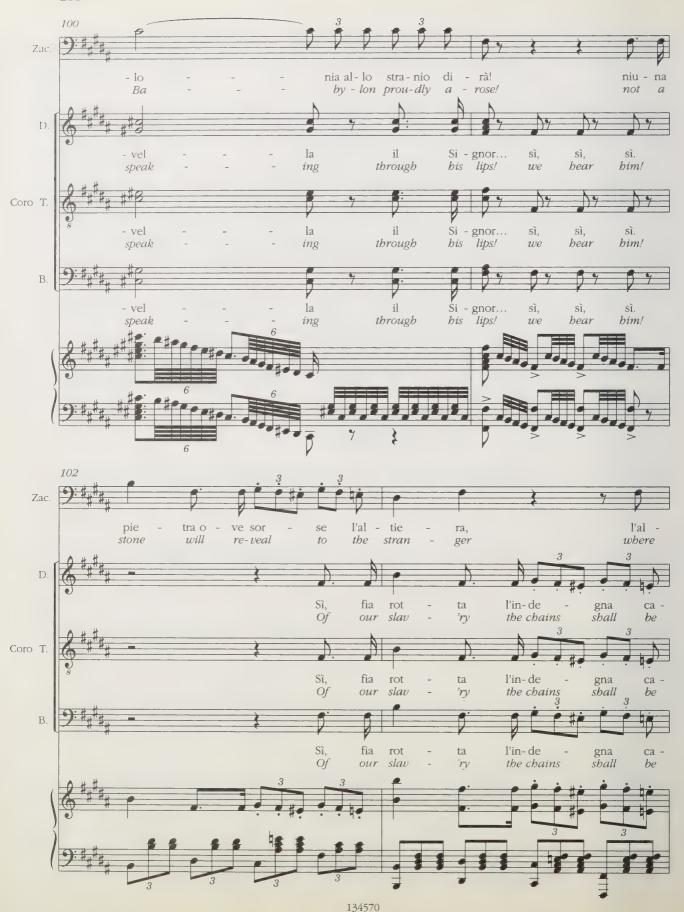






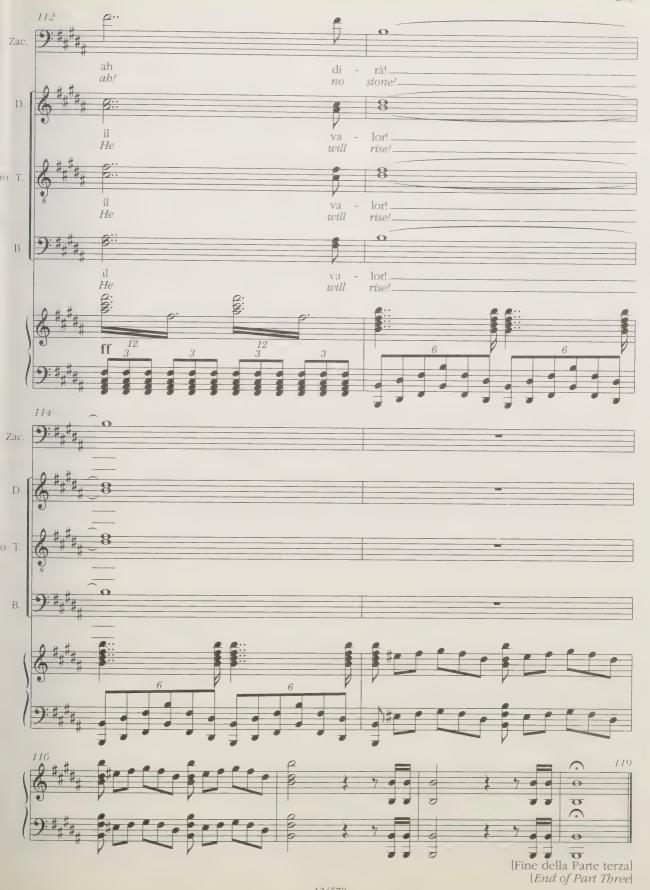












(PARTE QUARTA)

(L'idolo infranto) N. 12. Scena ed Aria di Nabucco

(PART FOUR)

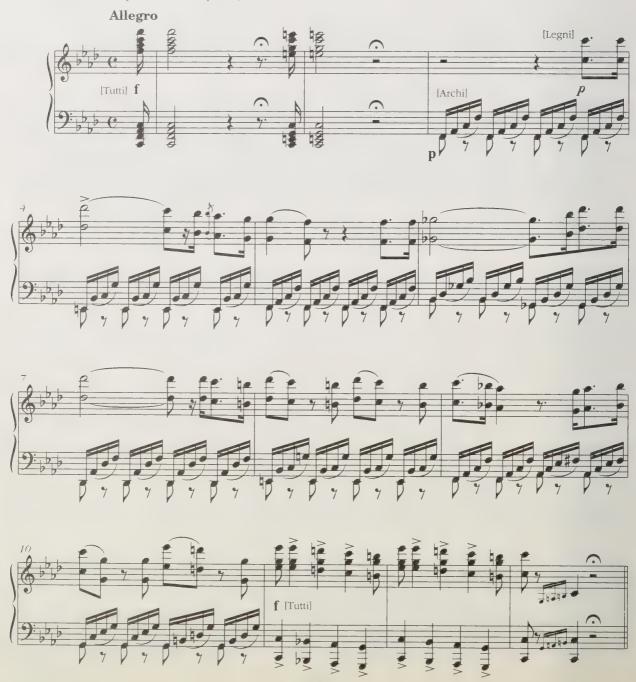
(The Shattered Idol) N. 12. Scena and Aria Nabucco

(Bel è confuso; i suoi idoli sono rotti in pezzi. *Gerem. I*)

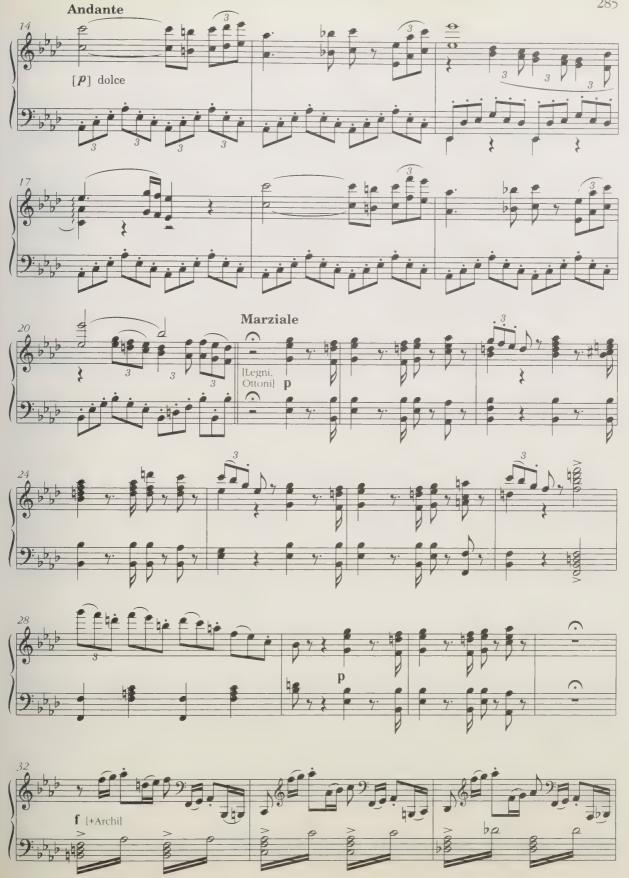
(Baal is confounded; his idols are broken in pieces.

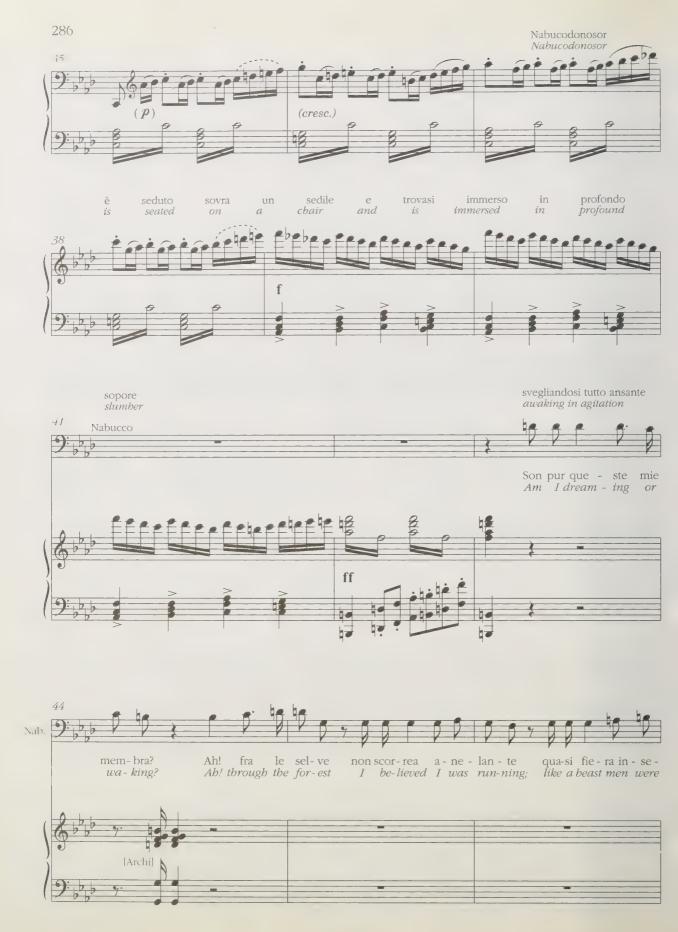
Jeremiah, L)

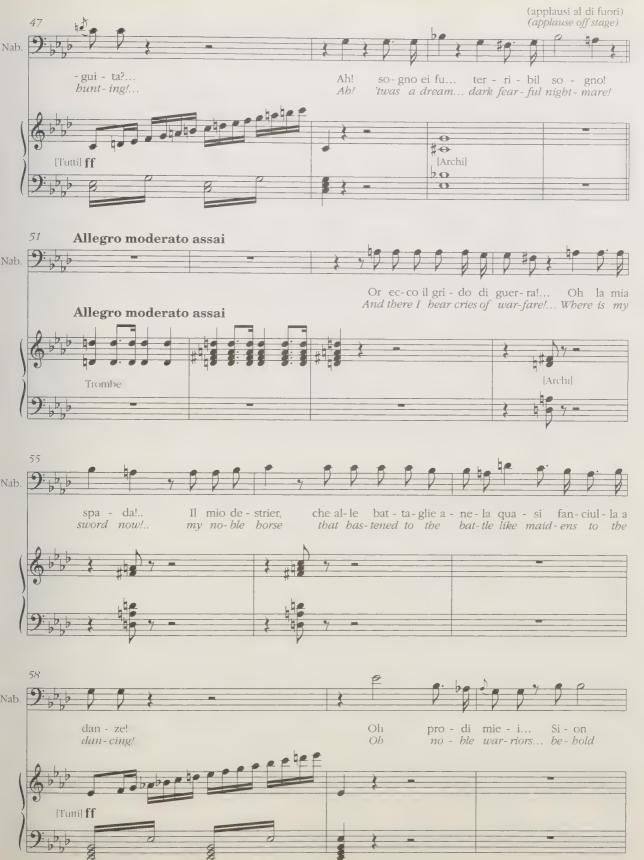
(SCENA PRIMA: Appartamenti nella reggia, come nella Parte seconda) (SCENE ONE: Apartments in the palace, as in Part Two)

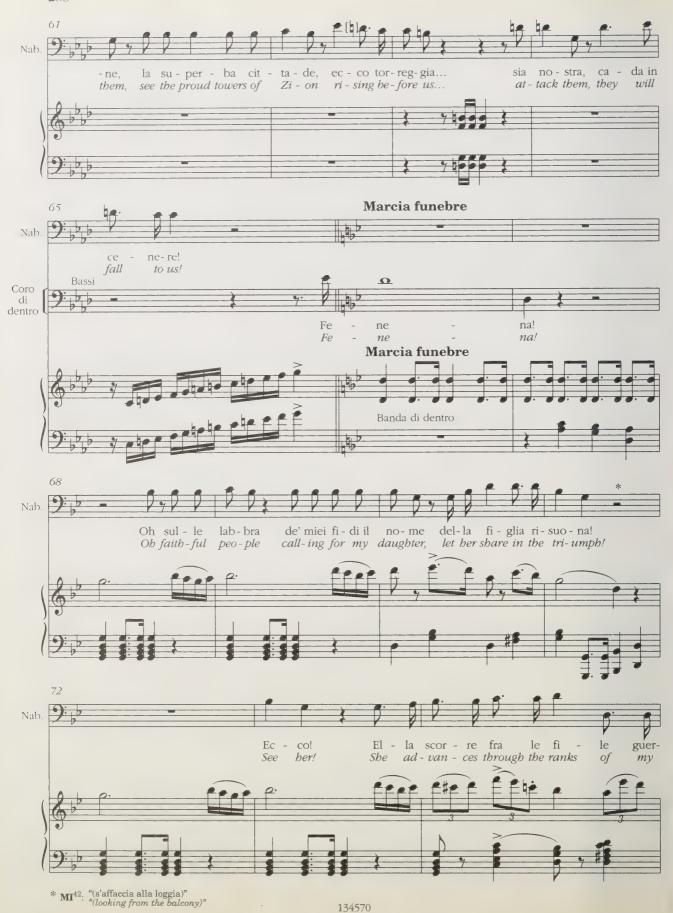


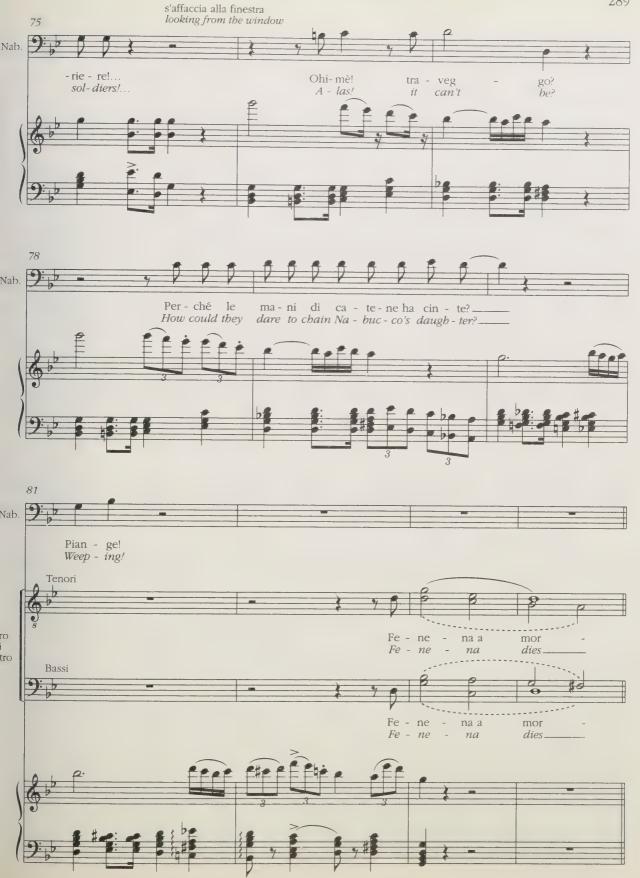


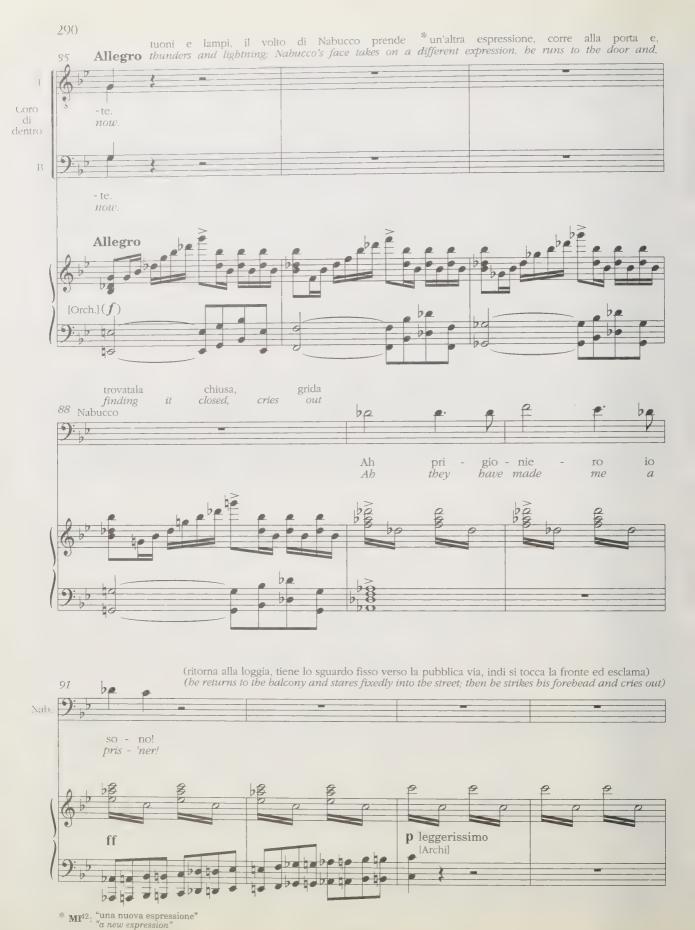


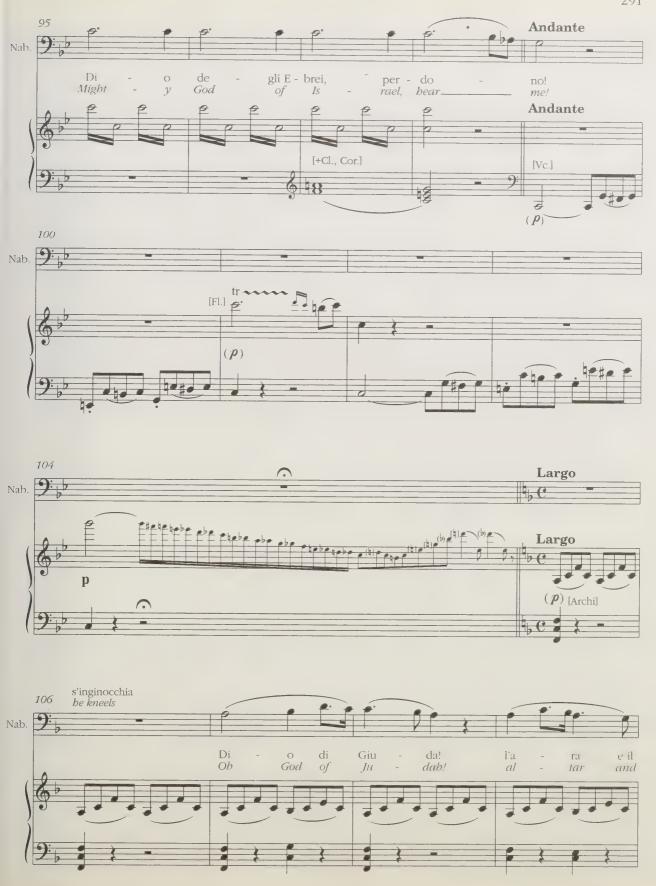


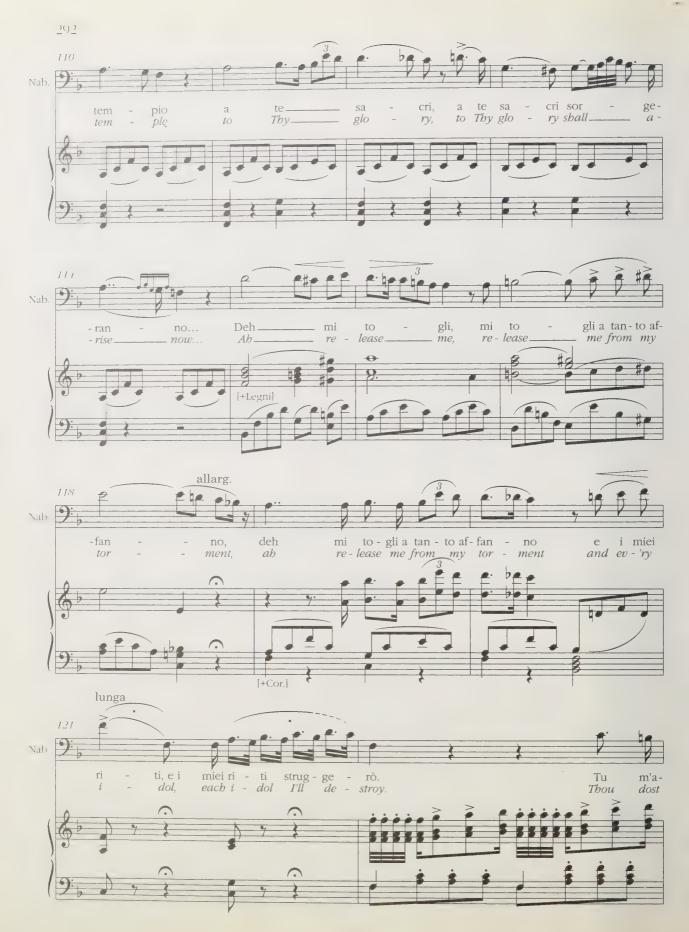




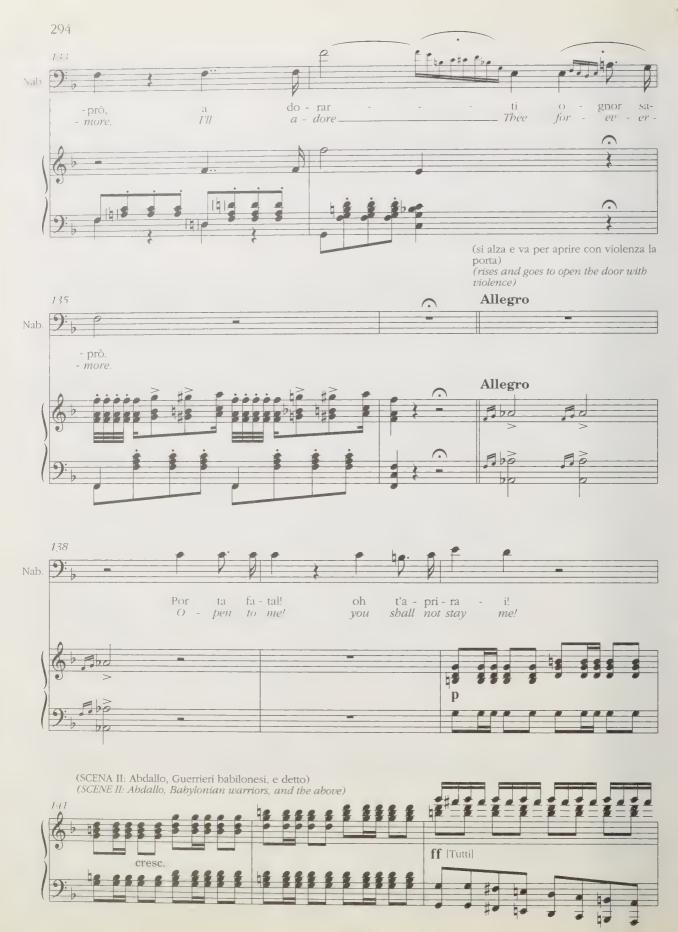




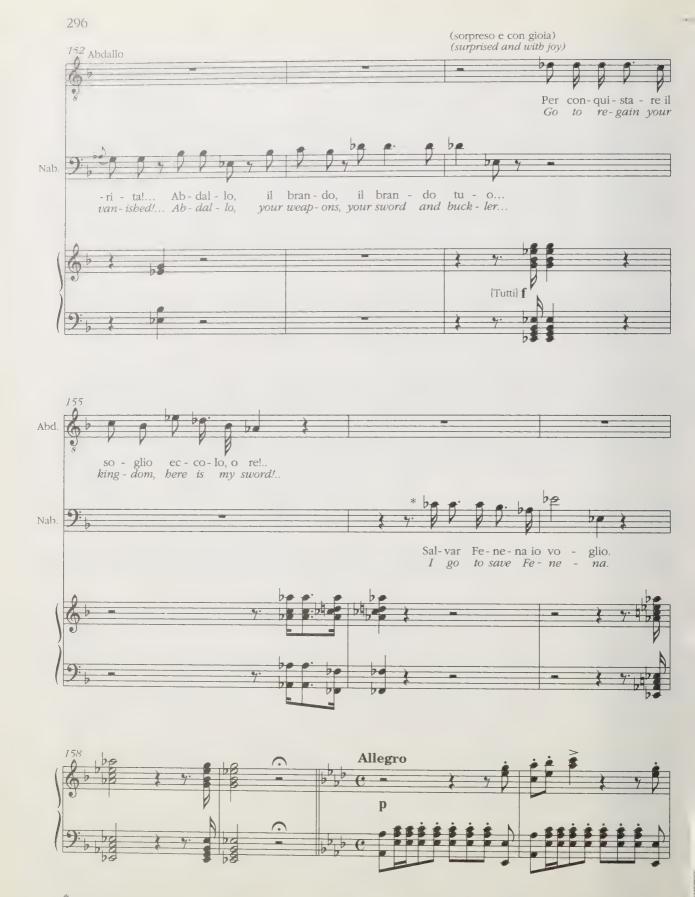






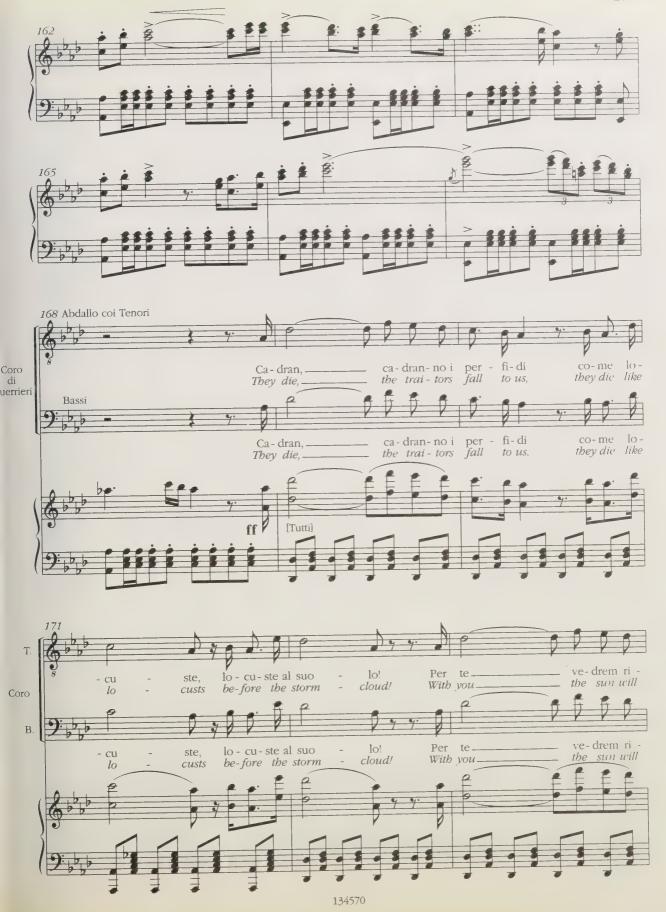


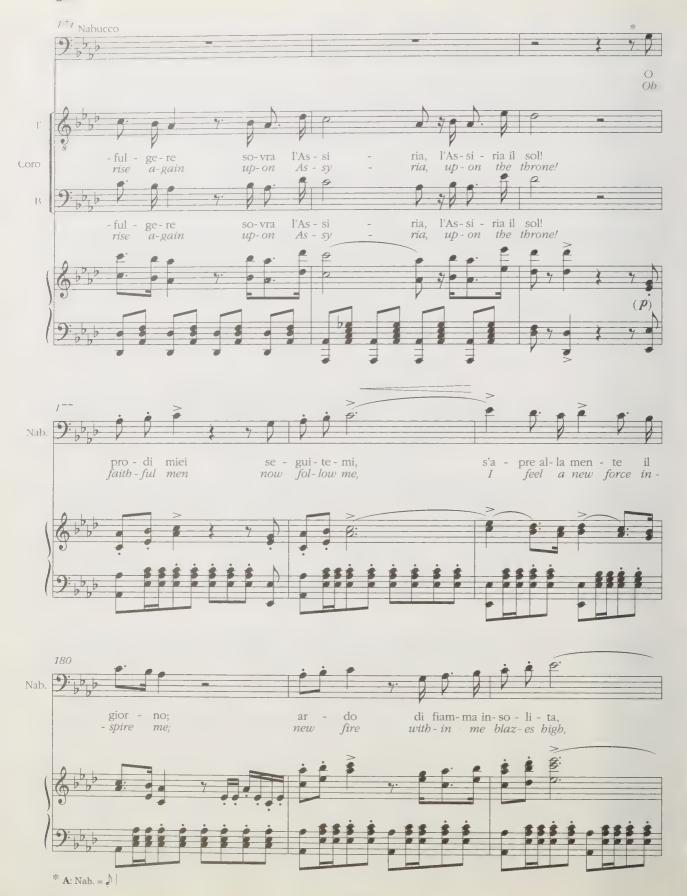


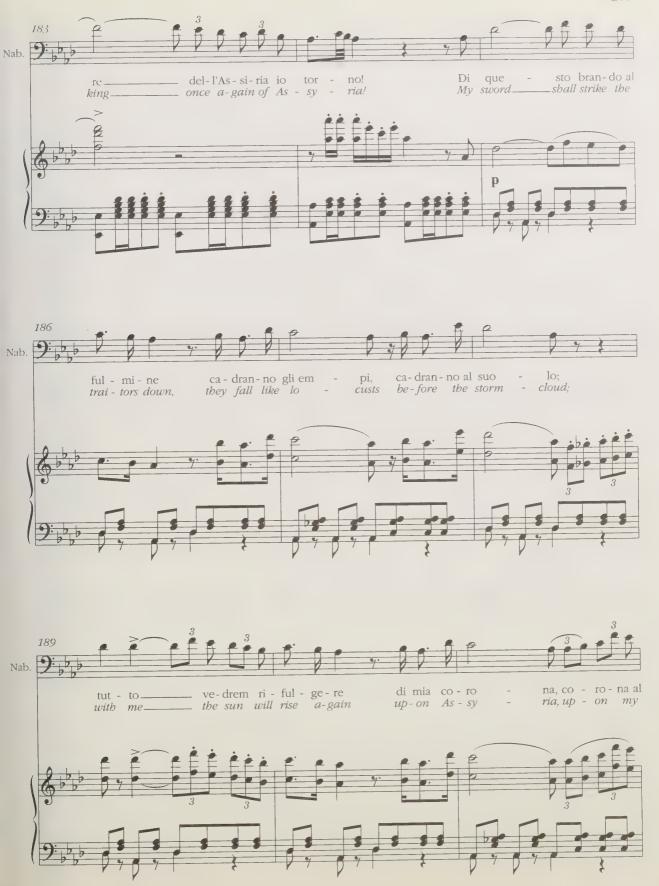


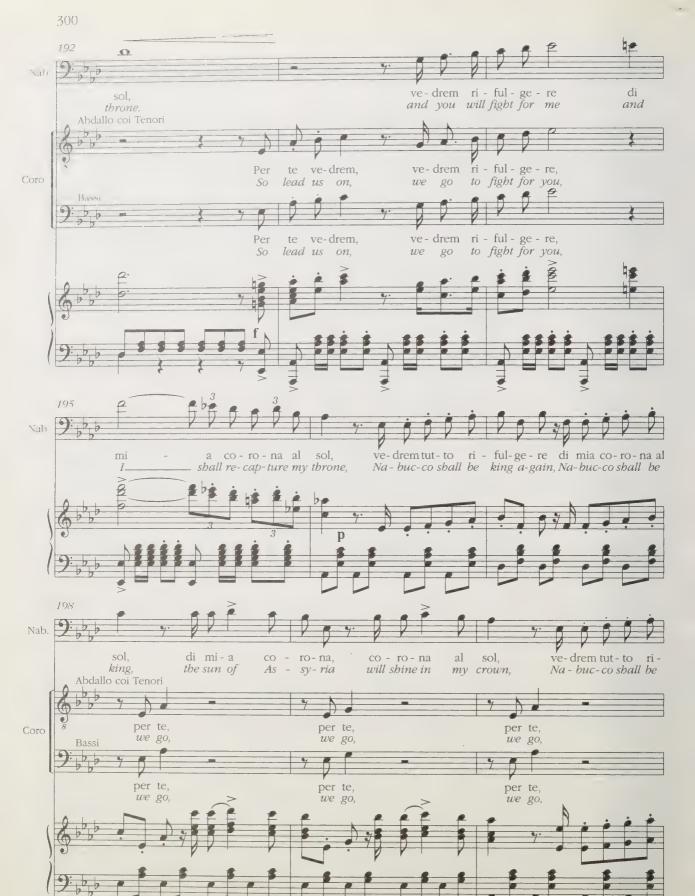
* A: Nab. = | } 7 A J. A J. A |

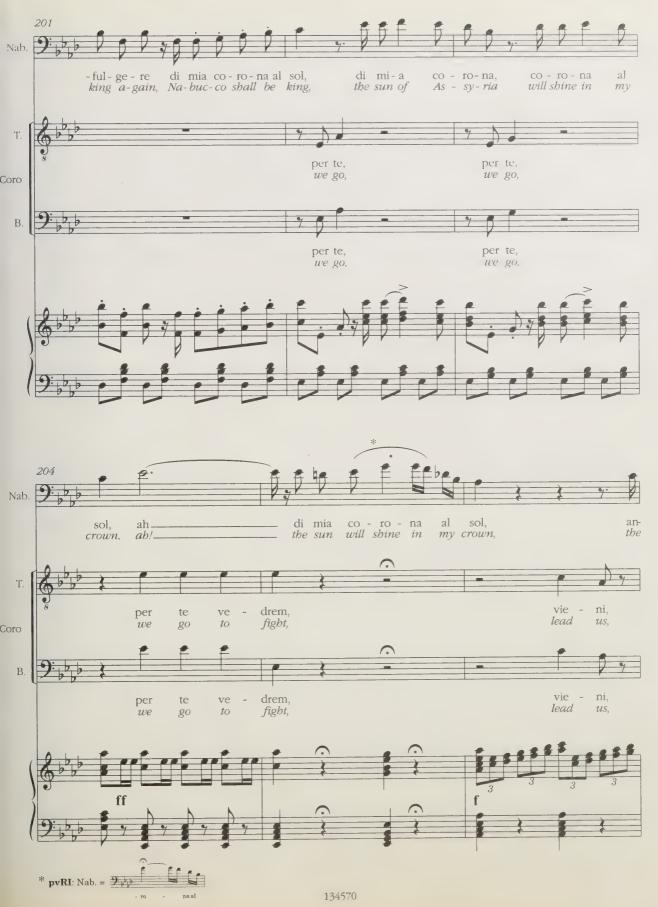


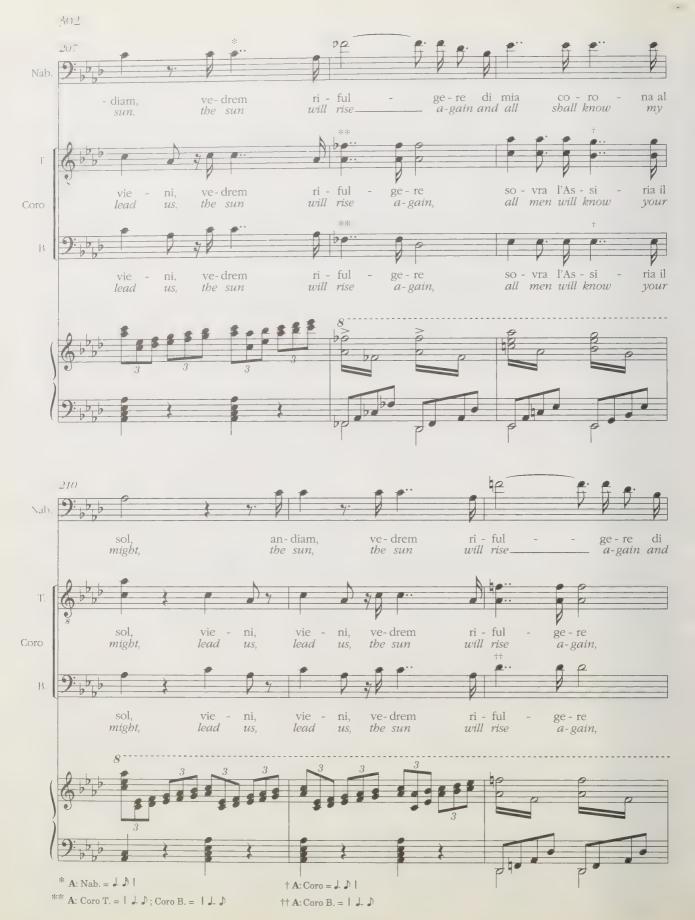










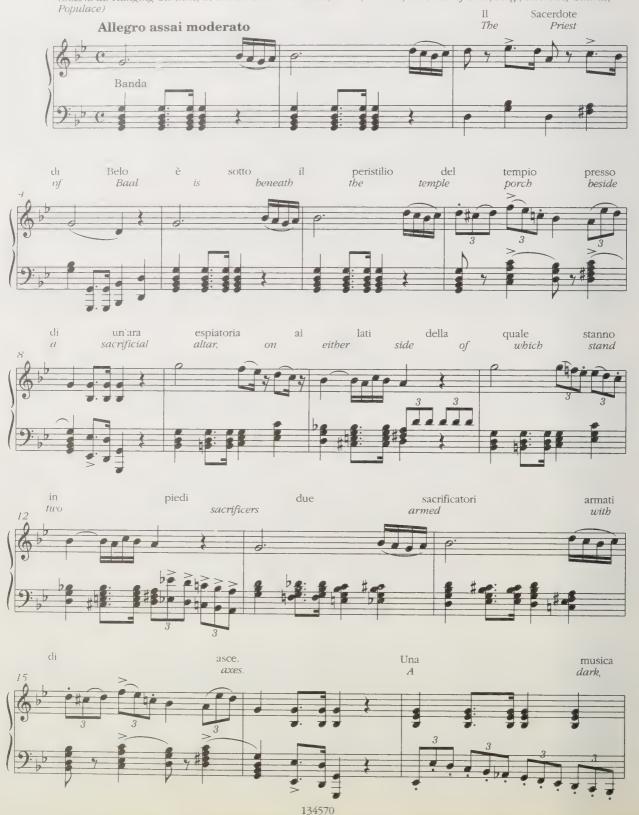




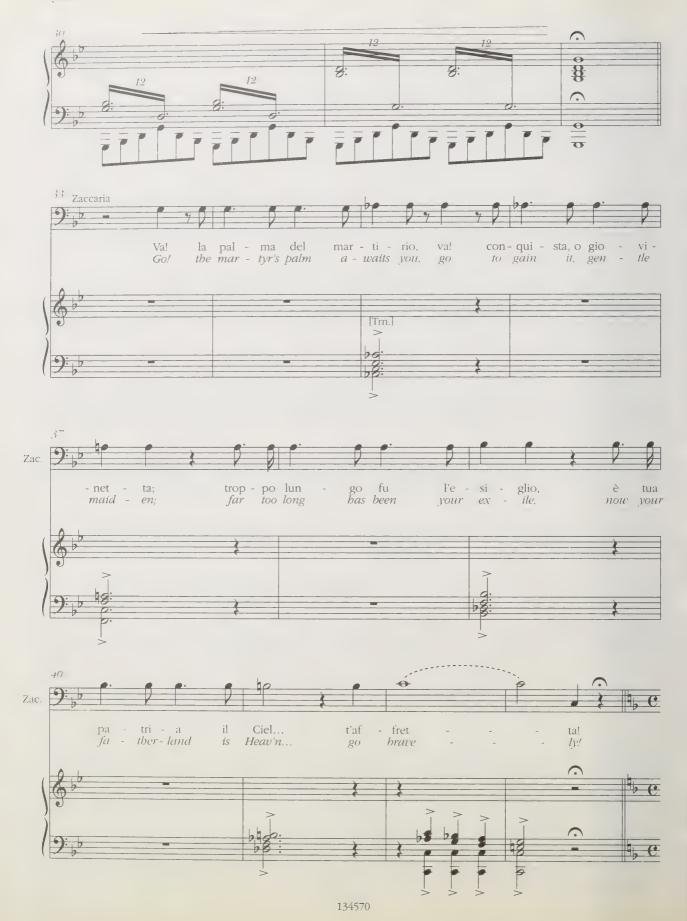
^{**} A: Coro T. = J. J |; Coro B. = J. J |

N. 13. Finale Ultimo

(SCENA III: Orti pensili come nella Parte terza. Zaccaria, Anna, Fenena, il Sacerdote di Belo, Magi, Ebrei, Guardie, Popolo)
(SCENE III: Hanging Gardens, as in Part Three. Zaccaria, Anna, Fenena, the Priest of Baal, Magi, Hebrews, Guards,





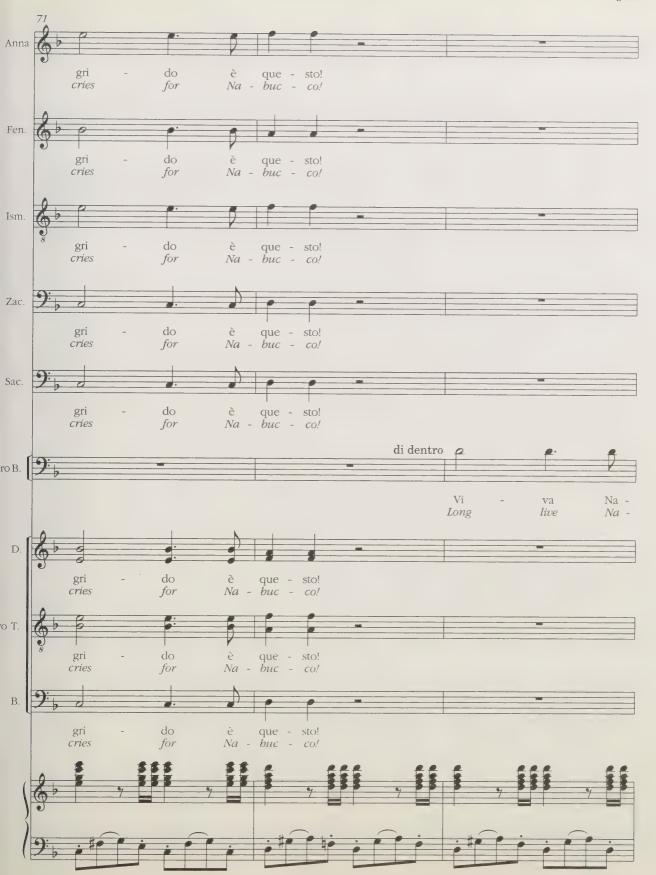


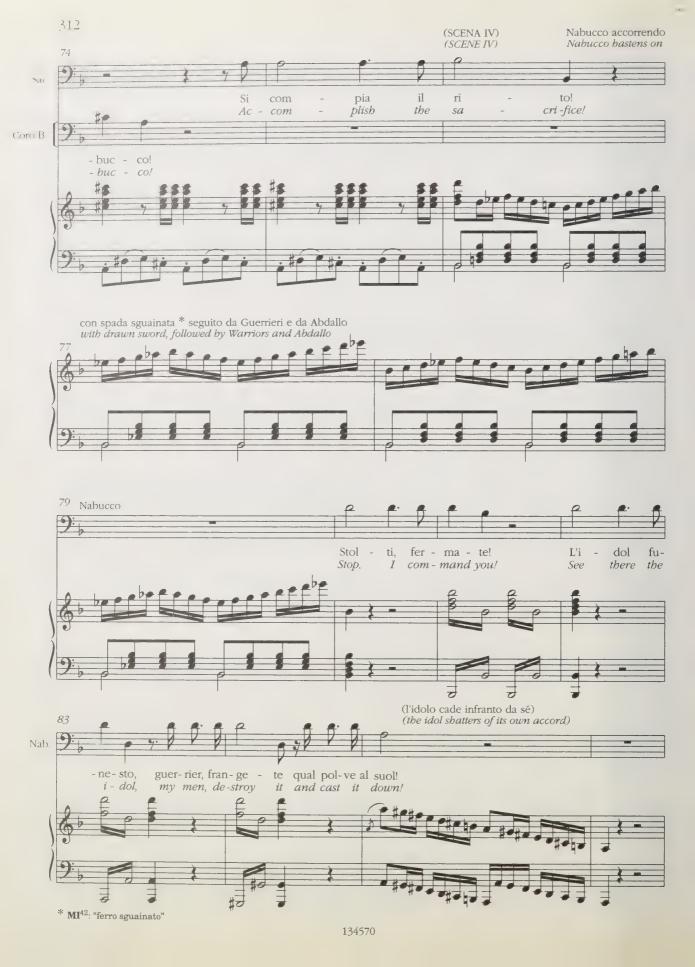


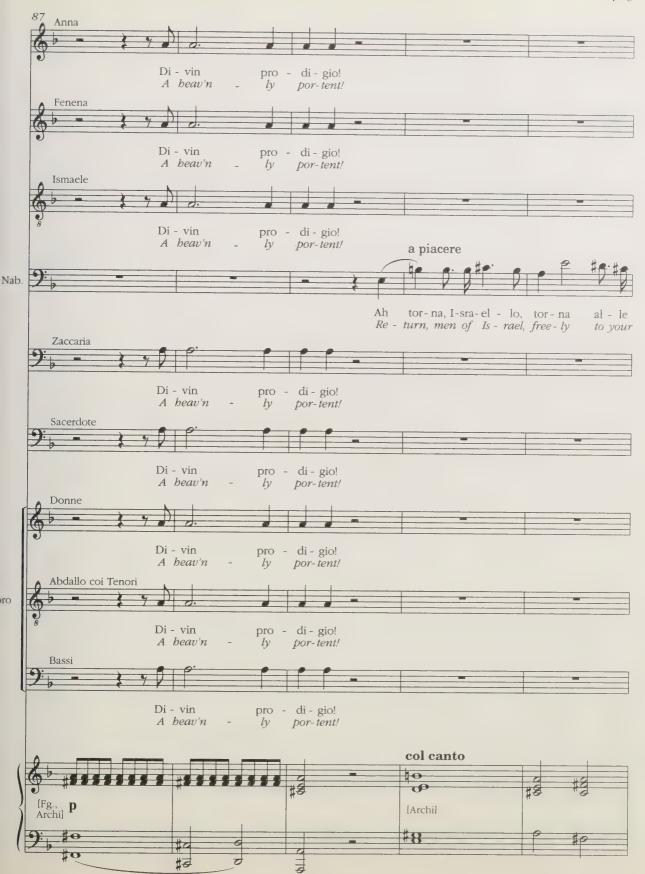


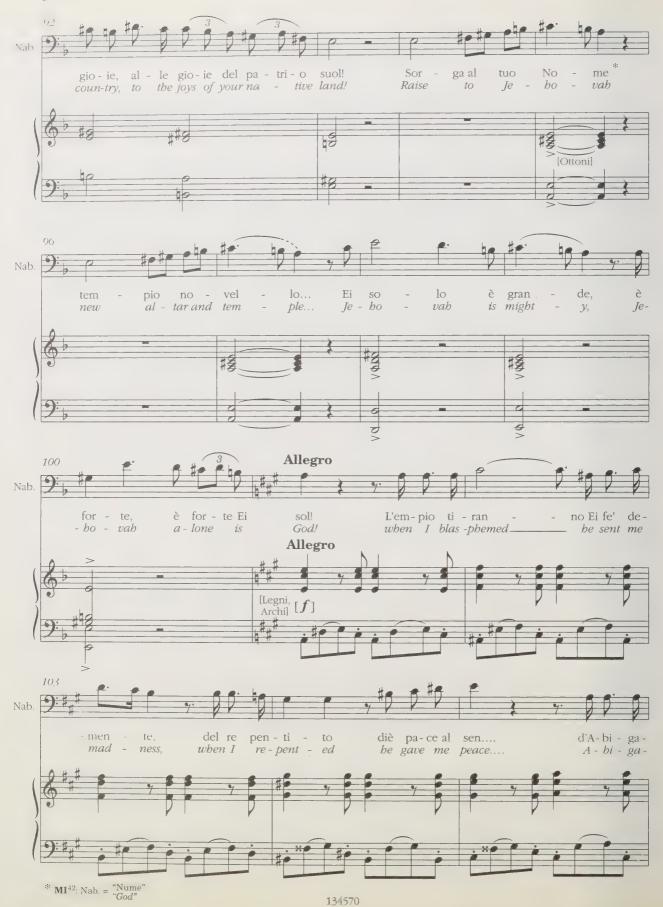


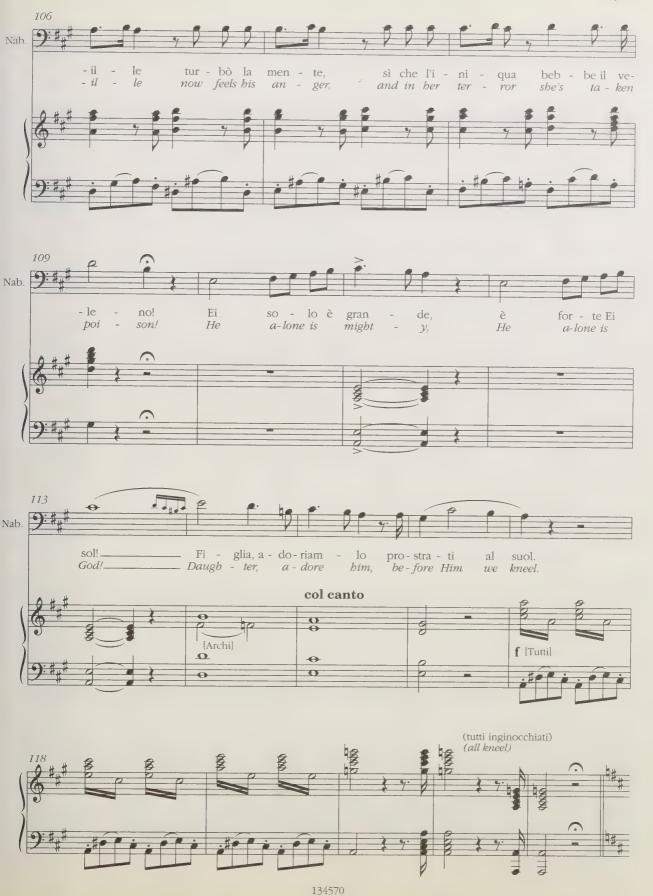


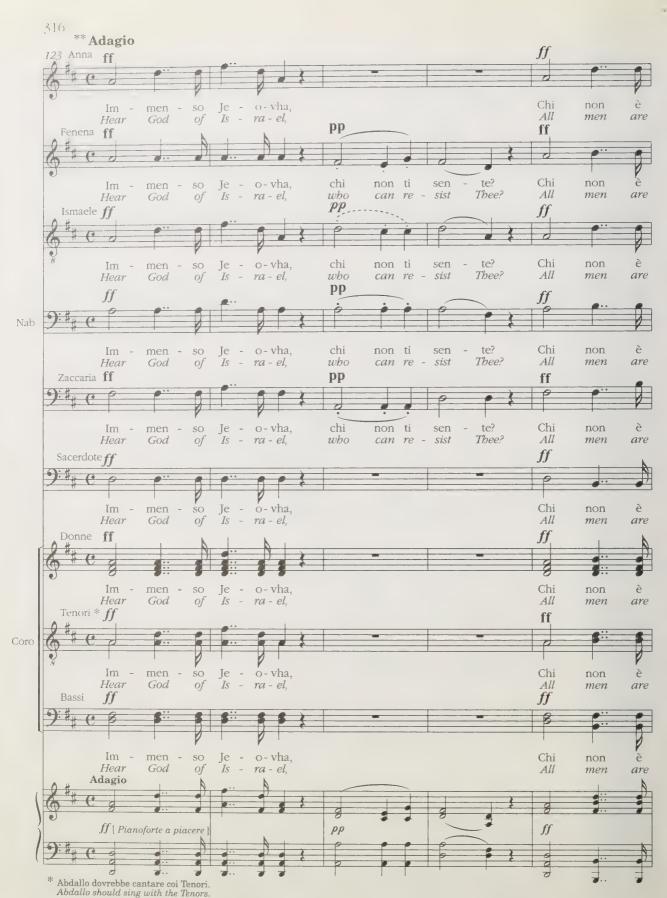








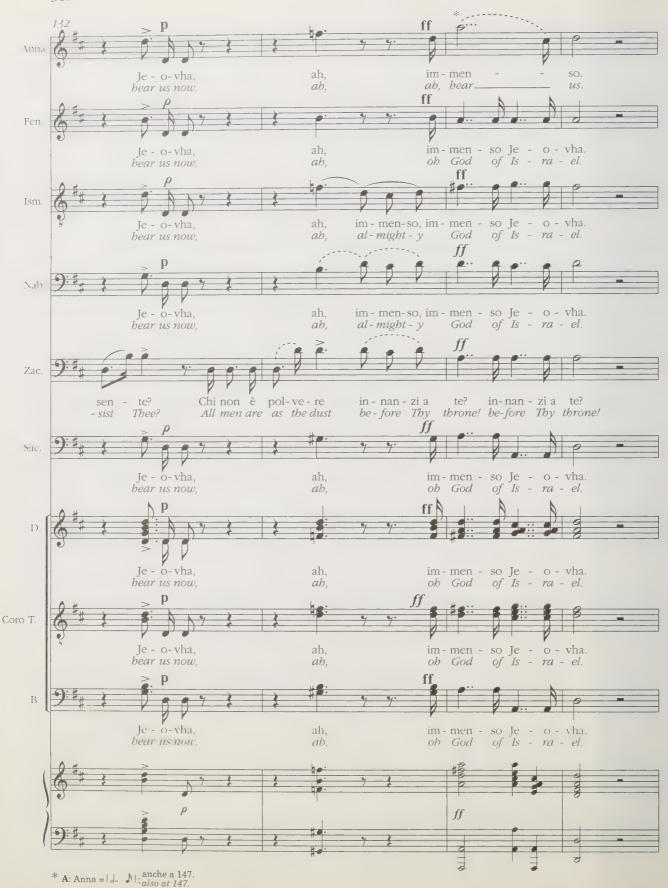


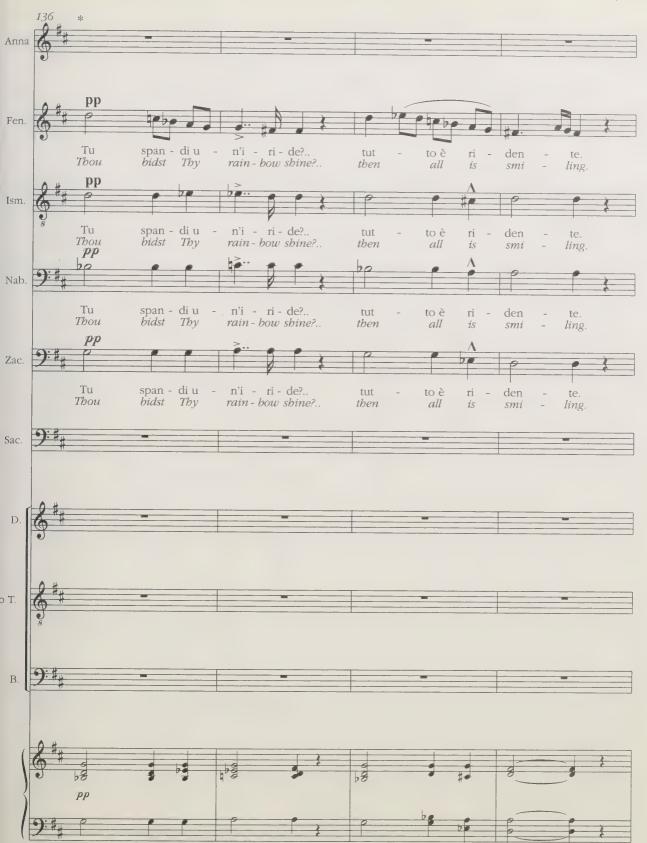


^{***} Per una stesura precedente di questo brano, vedi l'Appendice 1E.

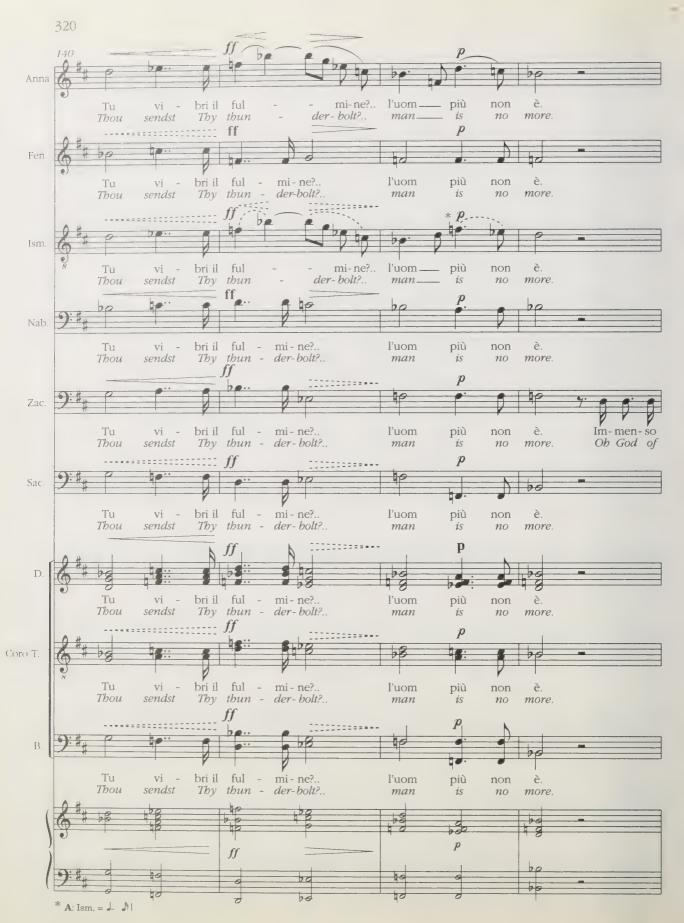
An early version of this piece is given as Appendix 1E.

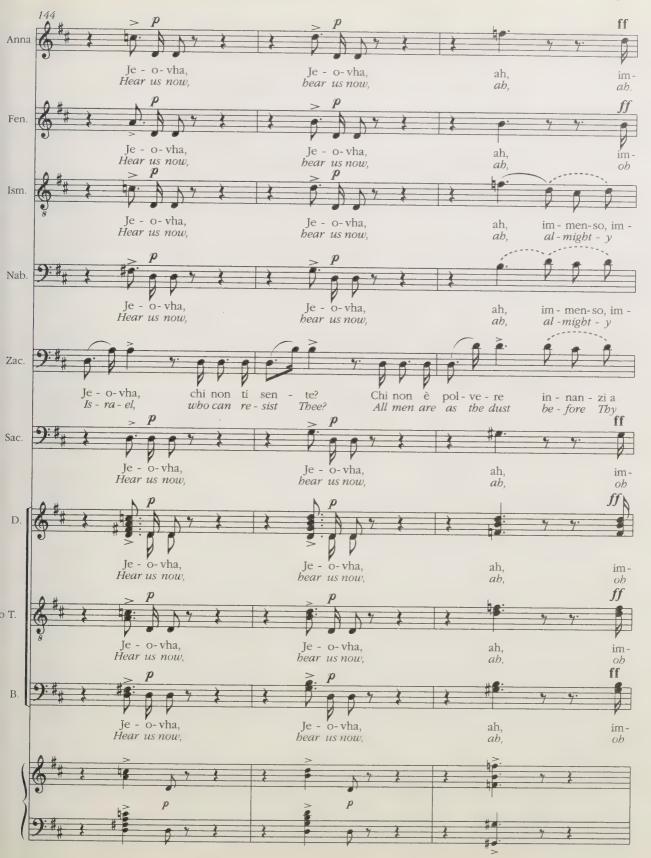


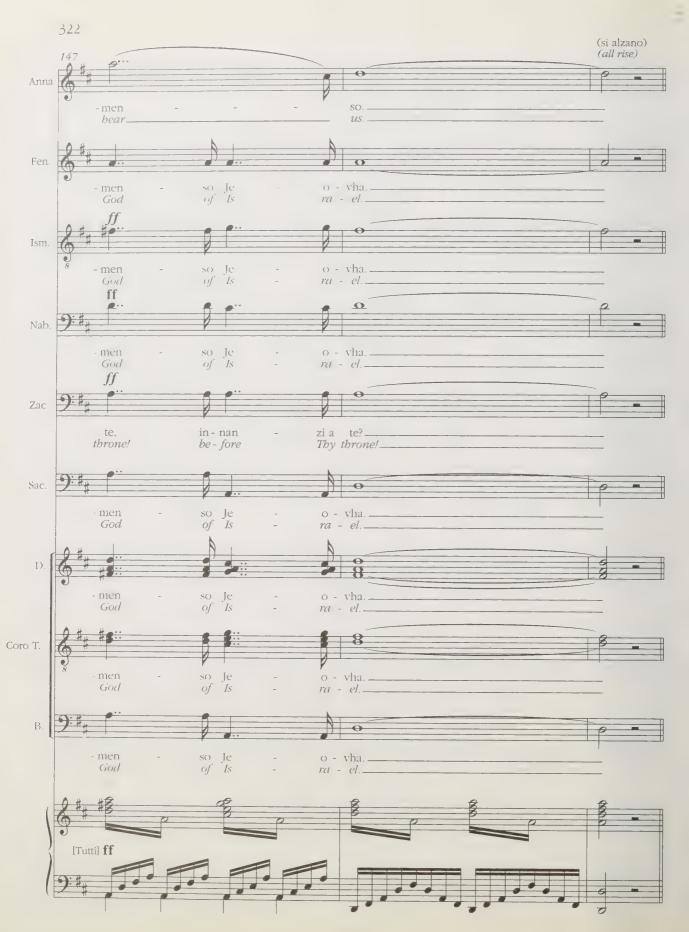


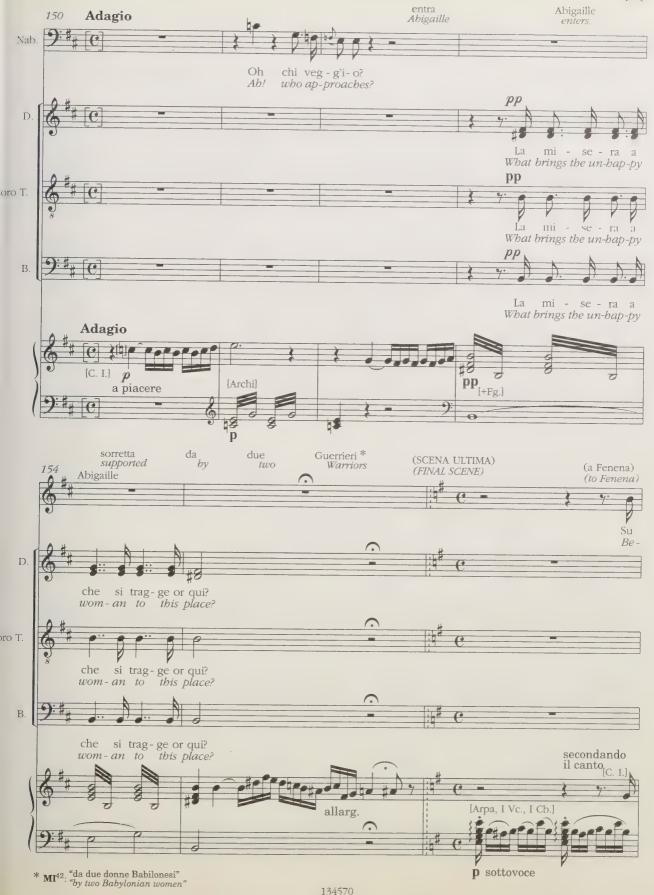


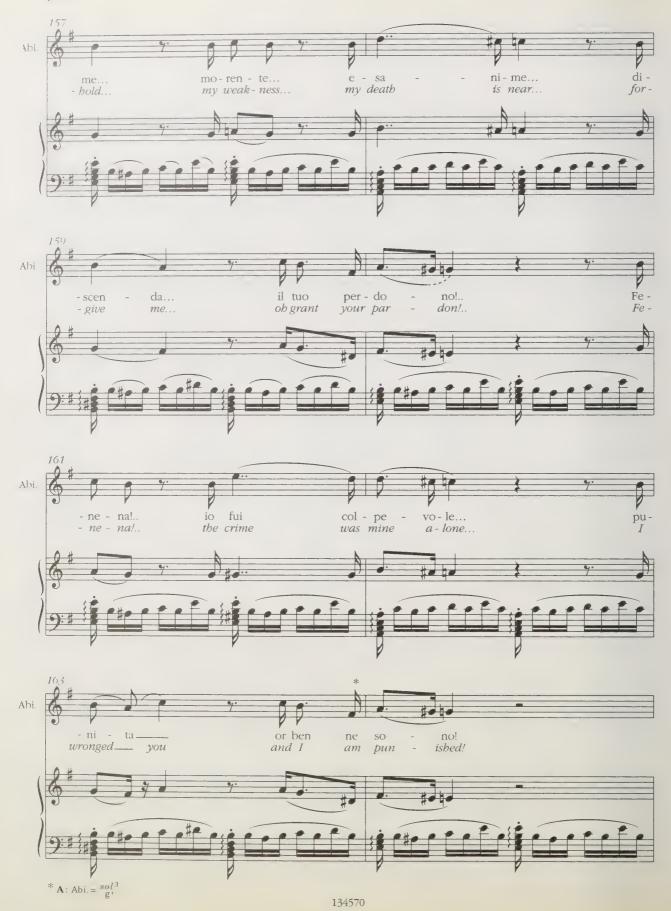
^{*} Il testo e la musica di 136-143 sono esaminati nelle Note. The words and music of 136-143 are discussed in the Notes.

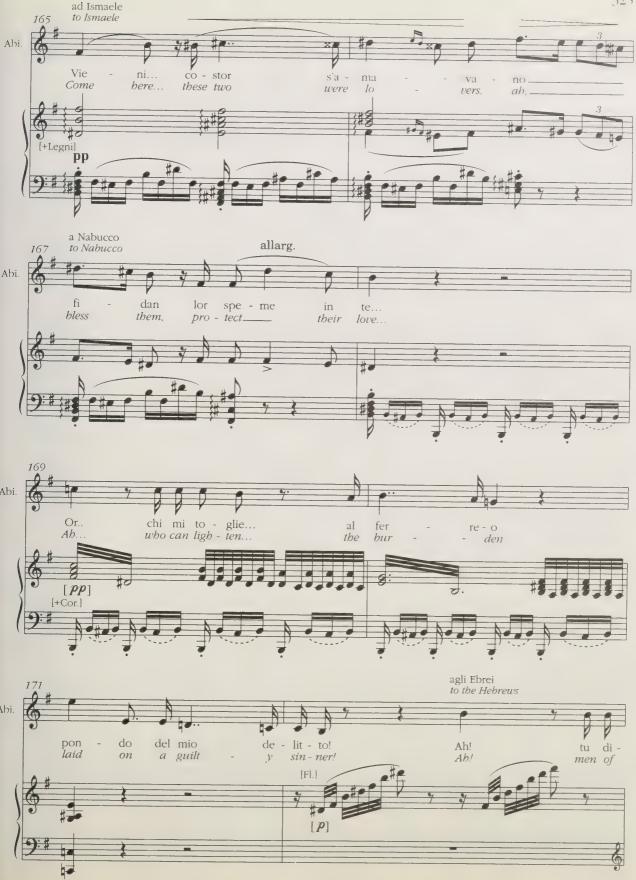


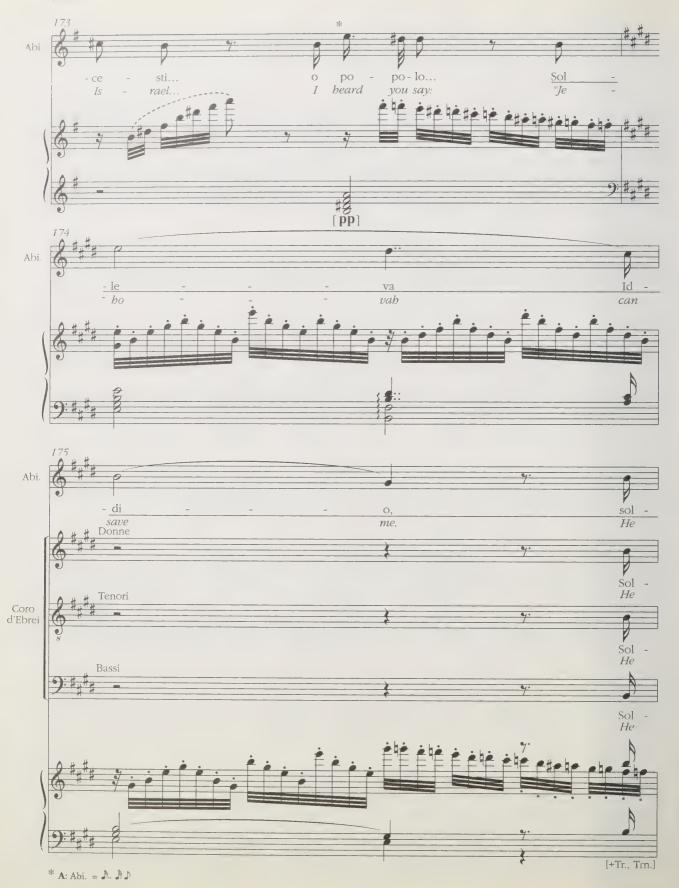


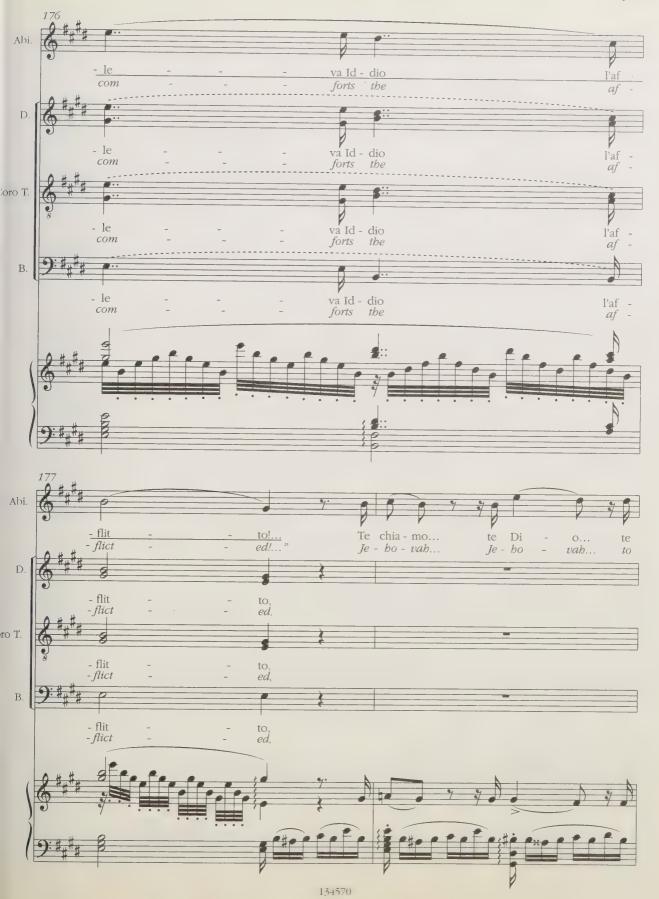




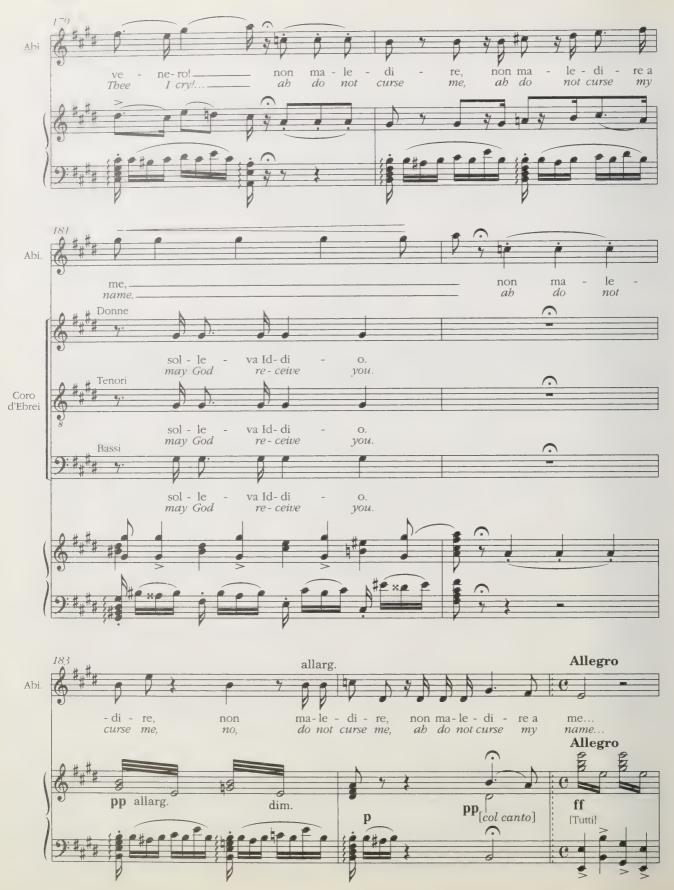




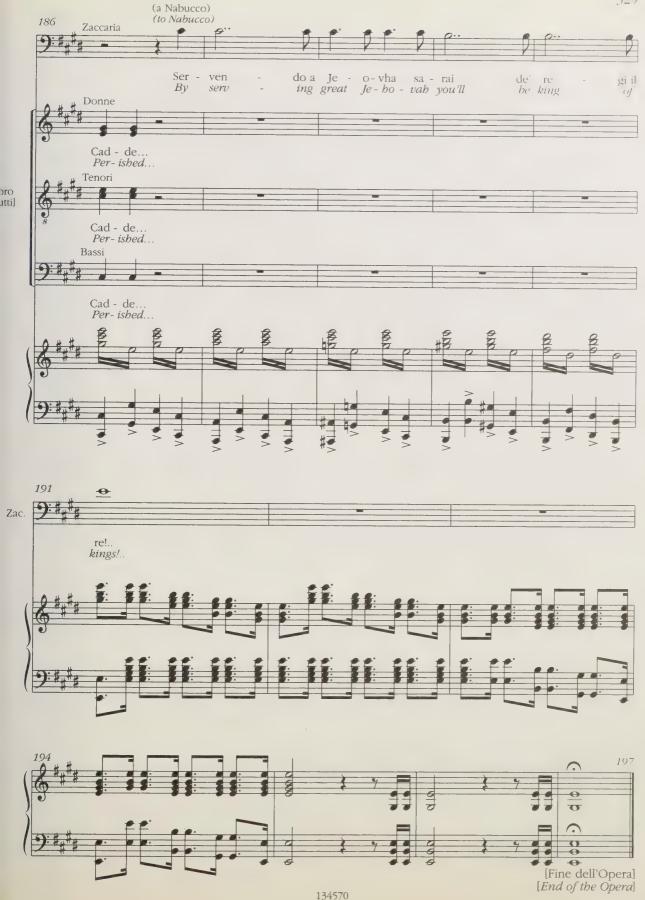












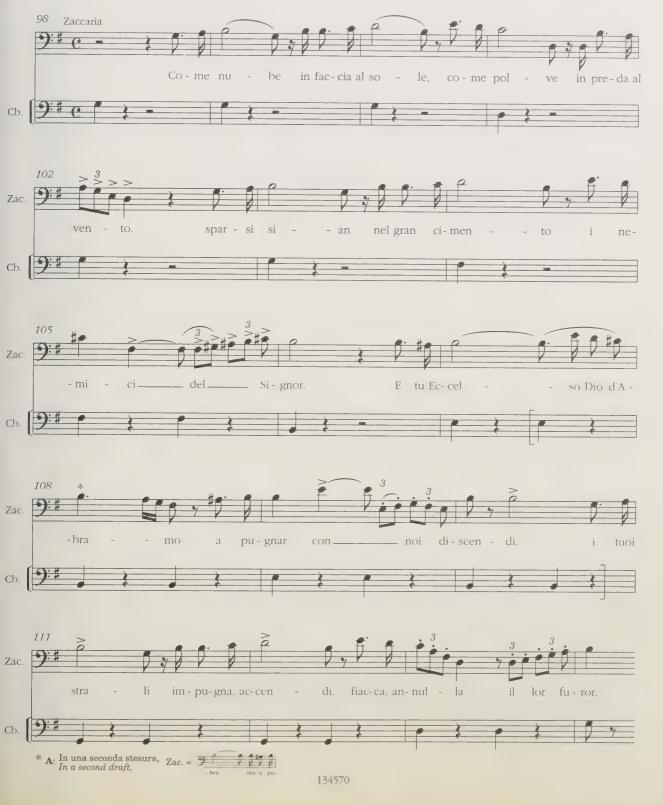


Appendix 1

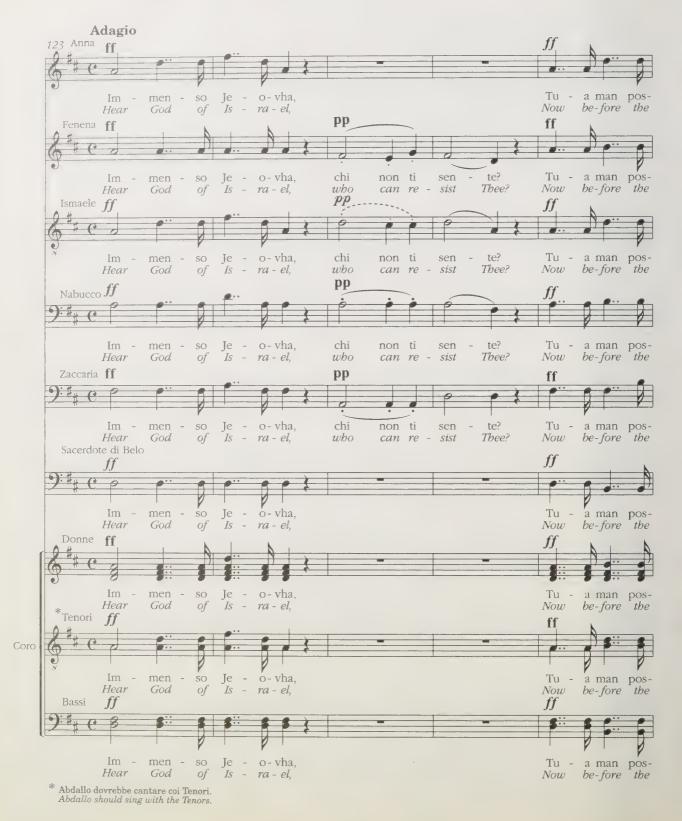
Abbozzi e frammenti scartati

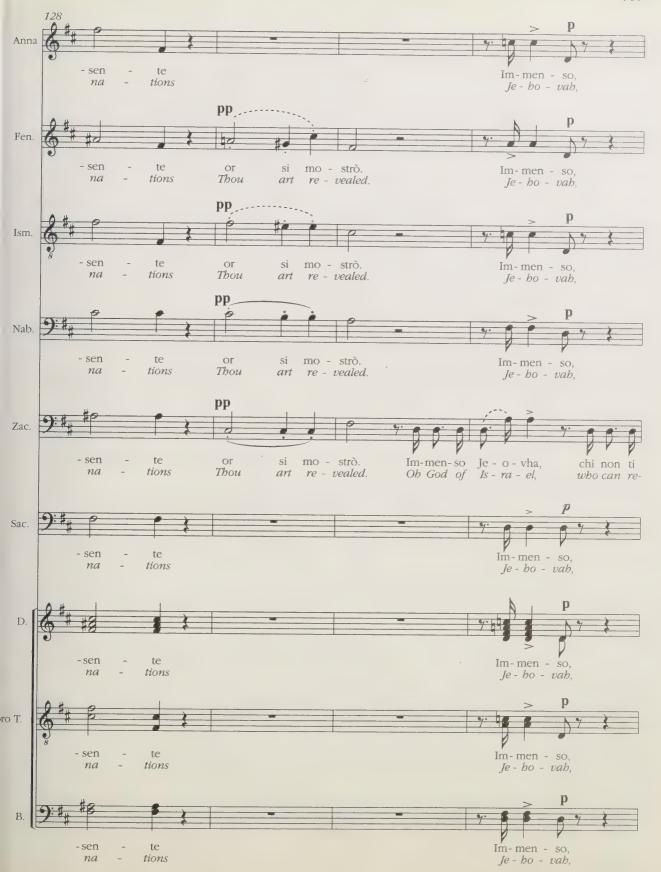
Sketches and Rejected Fragments

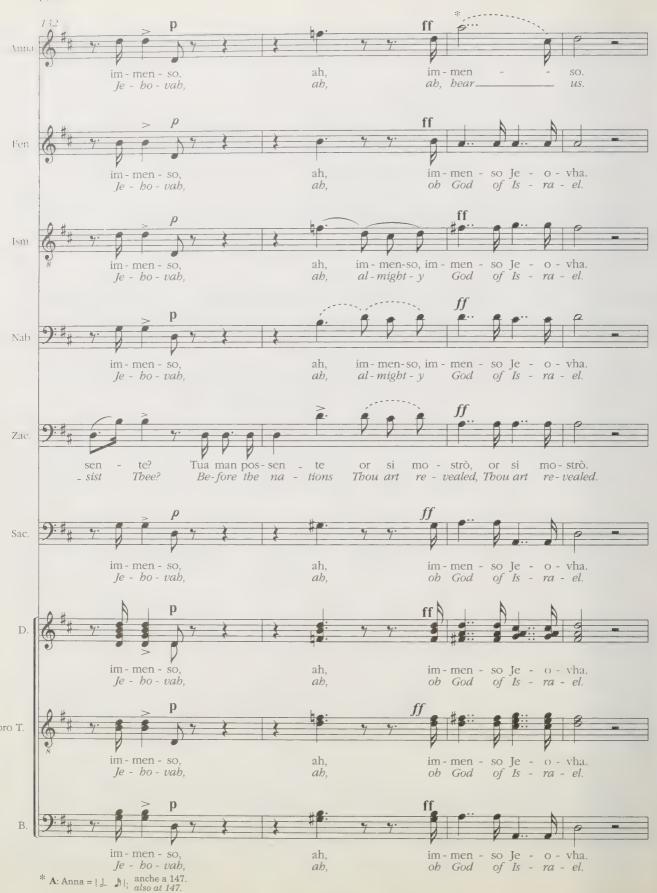
A. Una prima stesura della cabaletta di Zaccaria nel N. 2 A draft for Zaccaria's cabaletta in N. 2

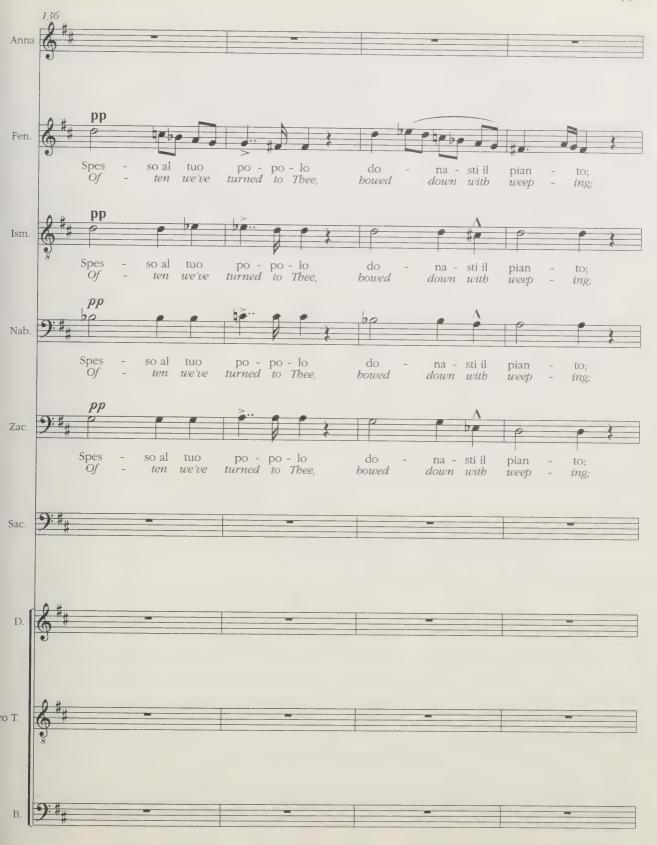


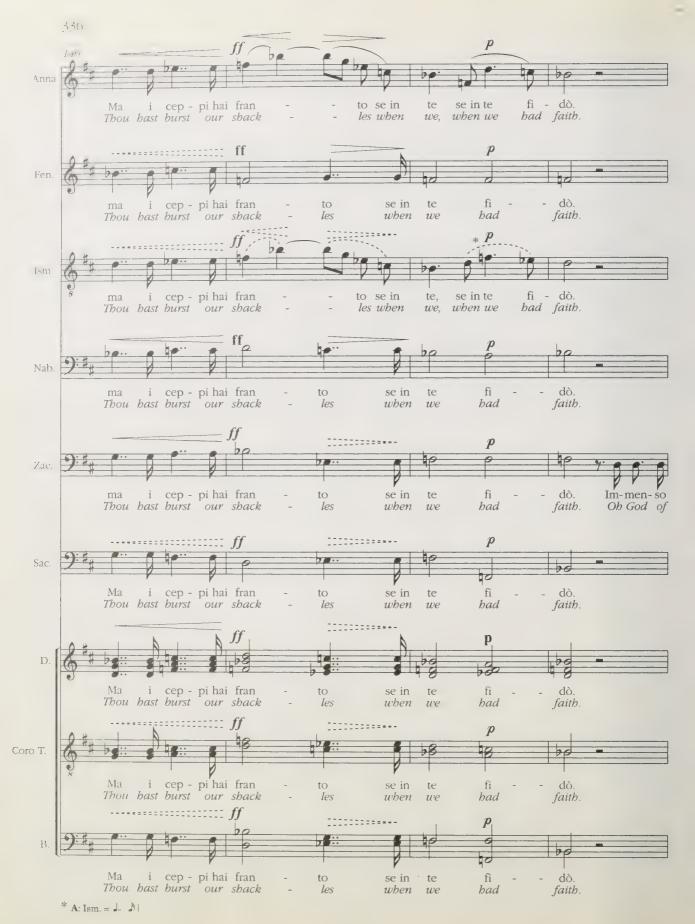
E. Una prima stesura di "Immenso Jeovha" nel N. 13 A draft for "Immenso Jeovha" in N. 13

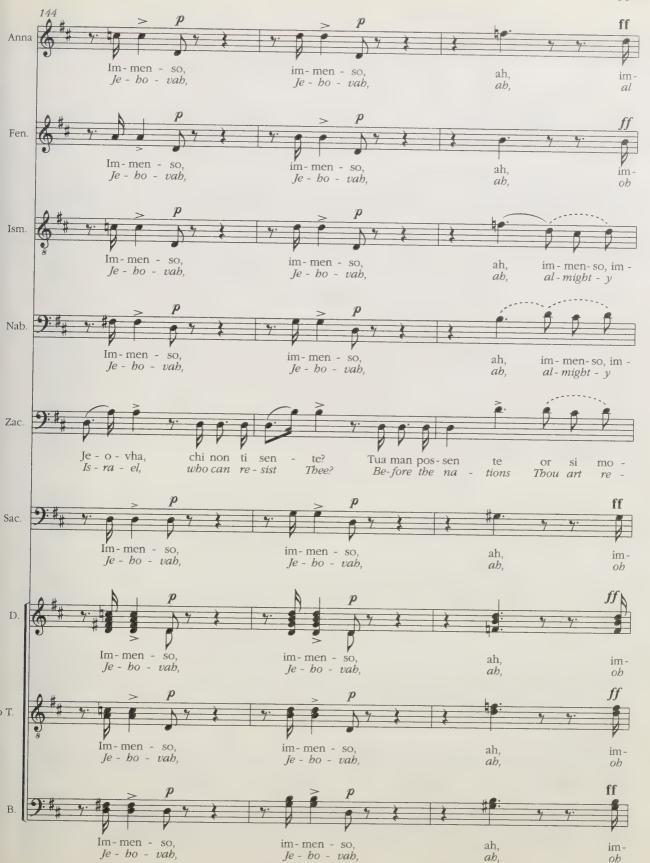


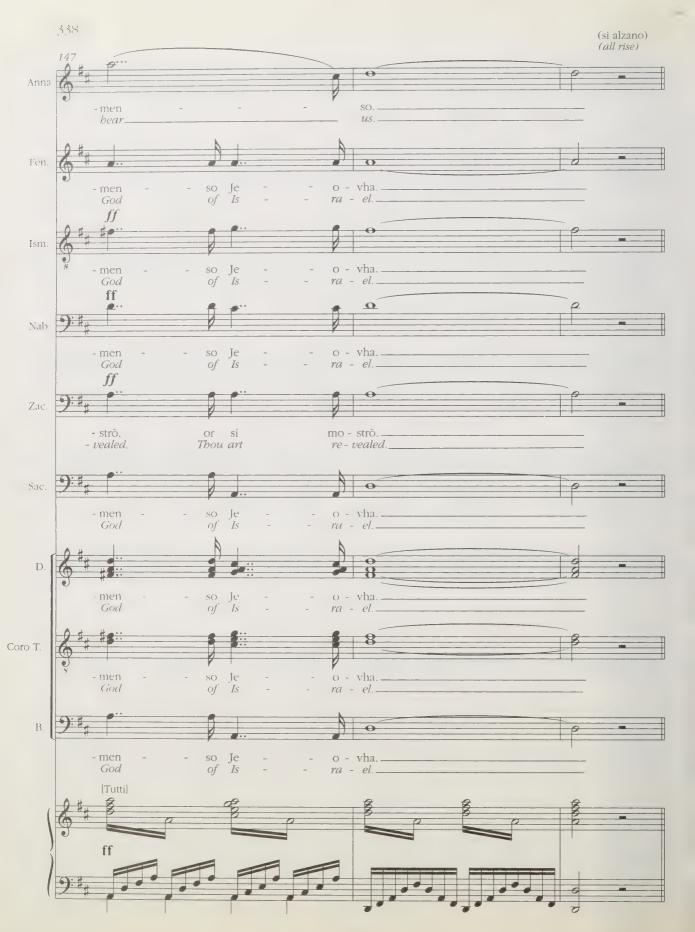










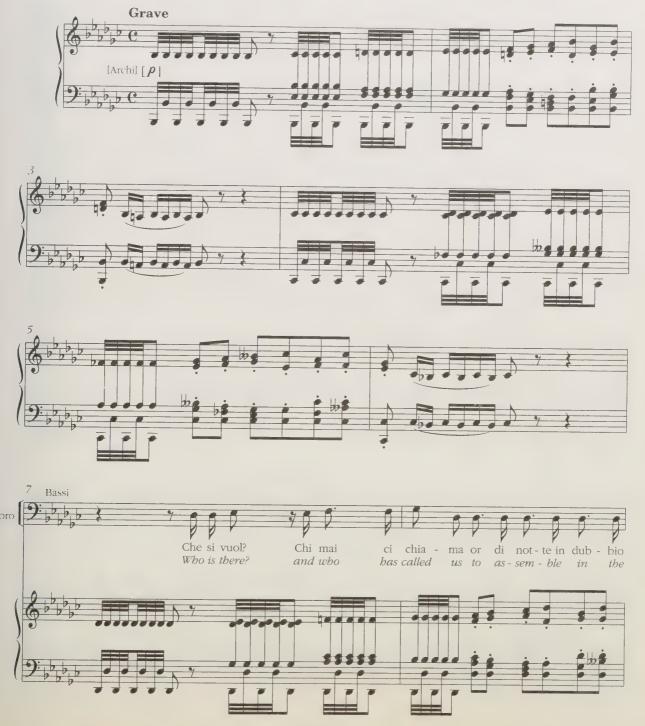


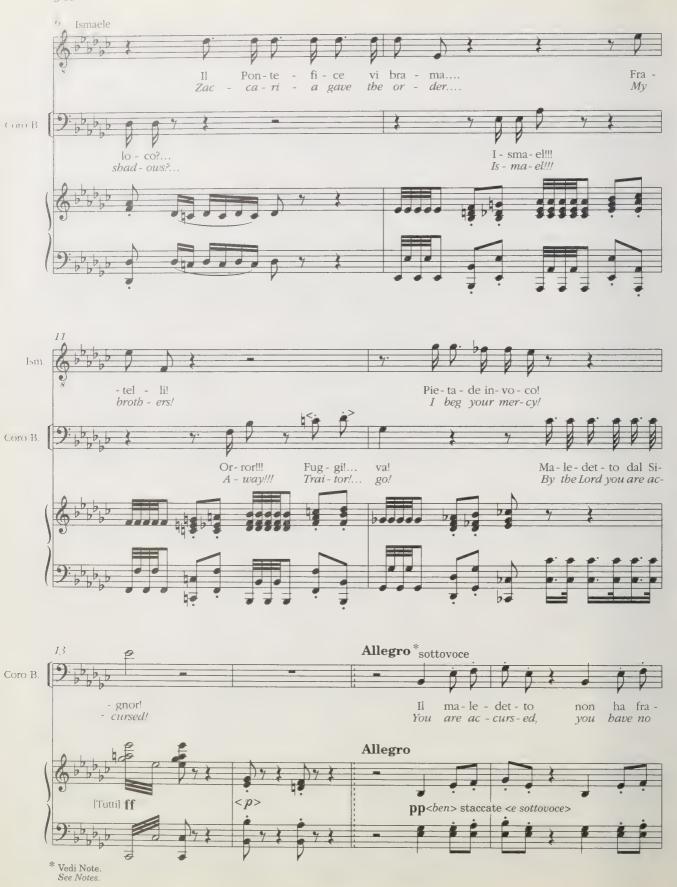
A. Una versione trasportata del Coro di Leviti A Transposed Version of the Coro di Leviti

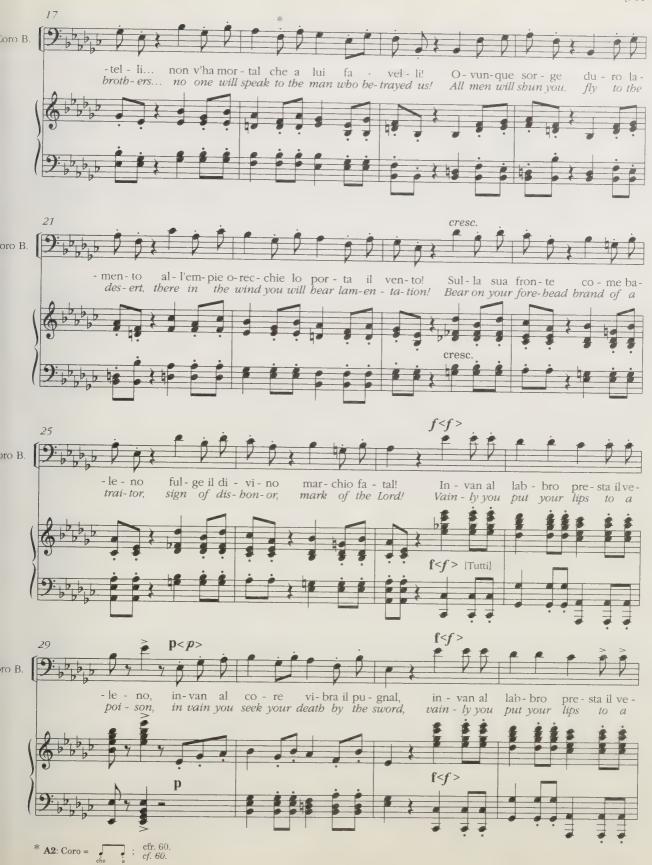
N. 7a. Coro di Leviti

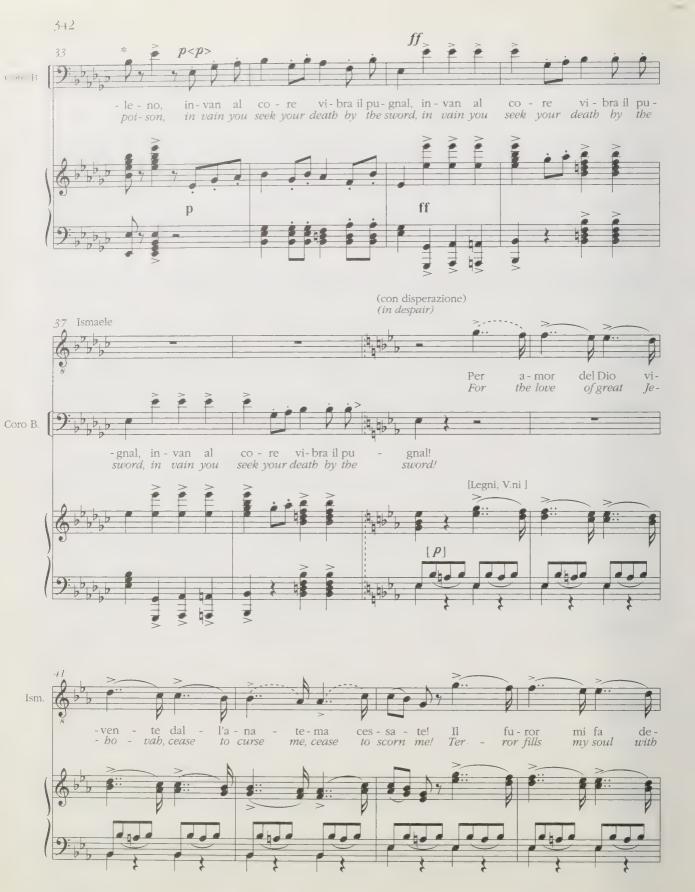
N. 7a. Chorus of Levites

(SCENA IV: Leviti, che vengono cautamente dalla porta a destra, indi Ismaele che si presenta dal fondo) (SCENE IV: Levites, who enter cautiously from the door to the right; then Ismaele, who enters from the back)

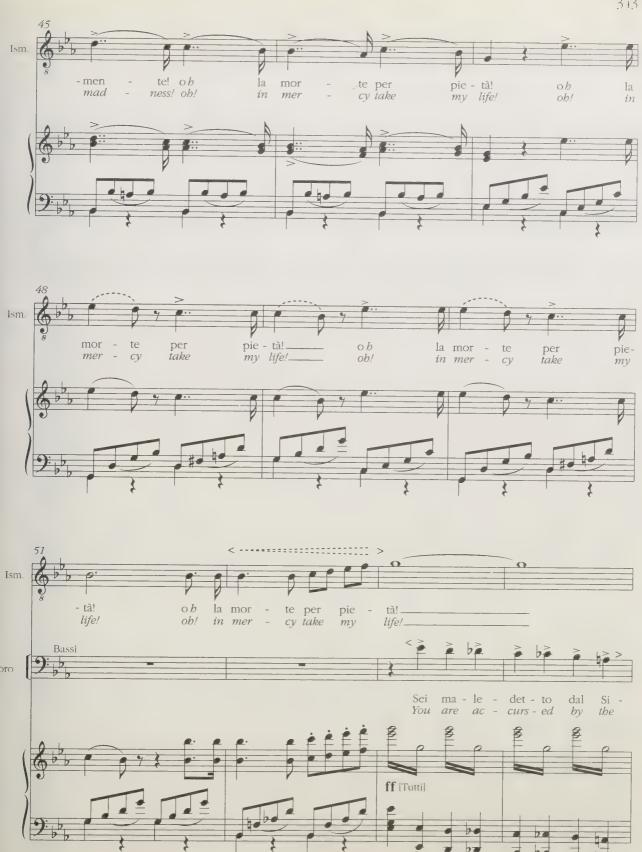


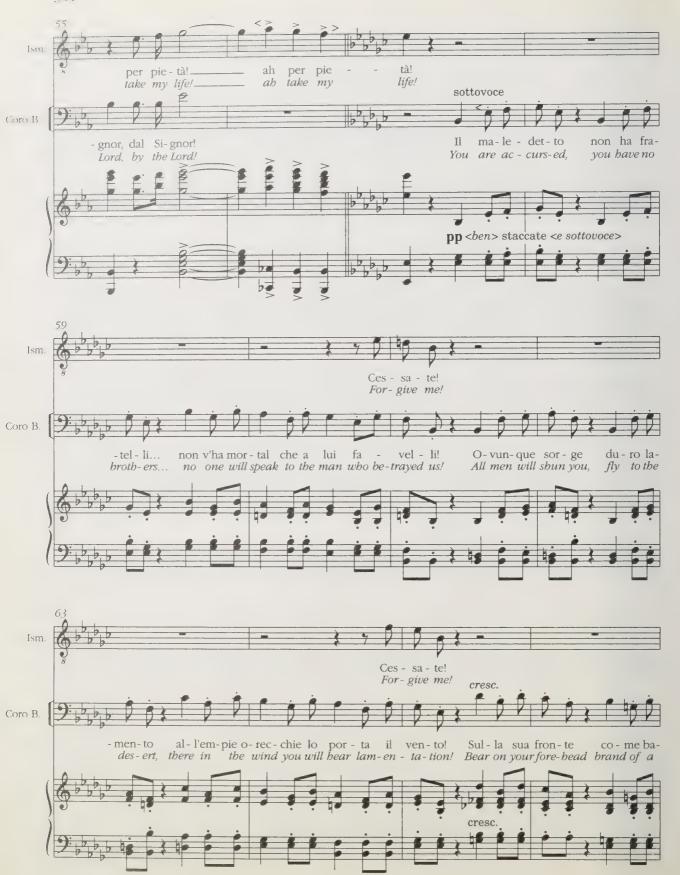


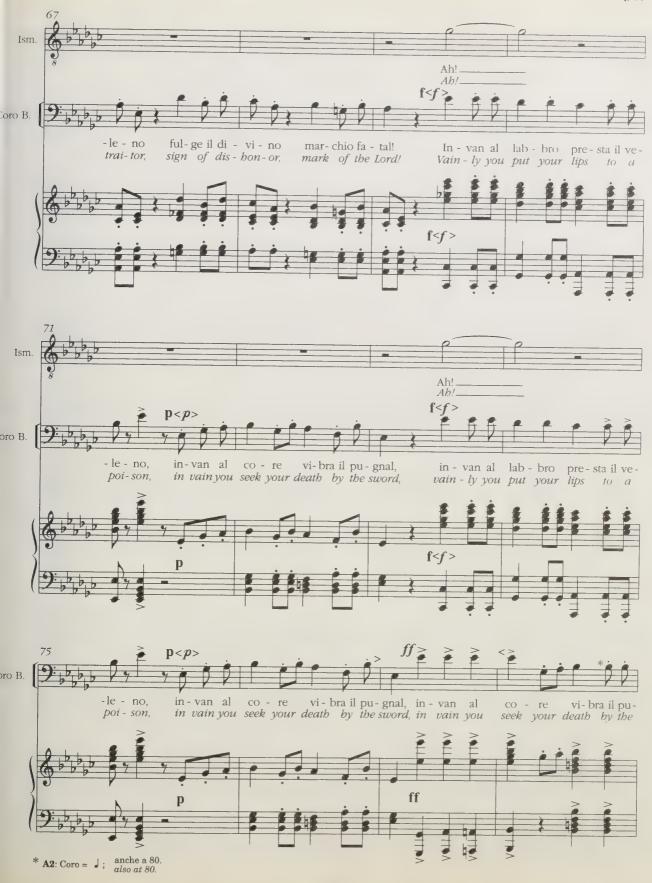




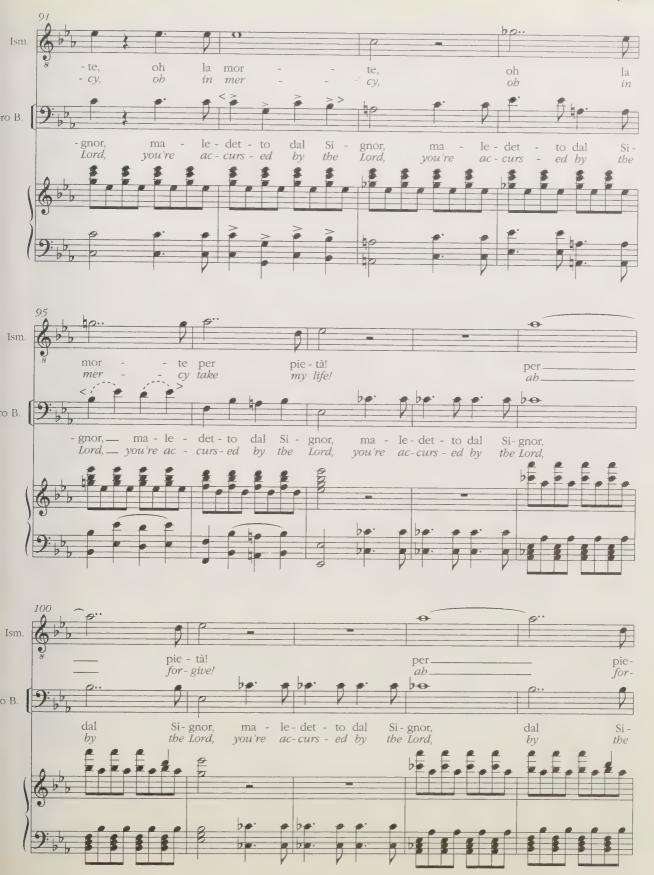
* A2: Coro =]]; anche a 71 e 75. also at 71 and 75.

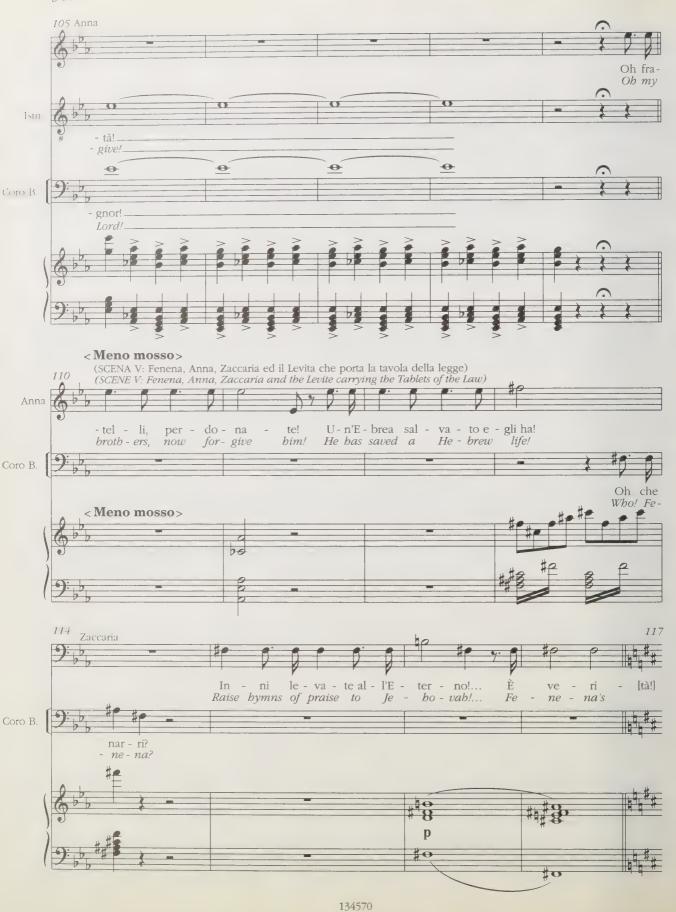












Appendix 3

Arrangiamenti corali autografi di "Va pensiero" e "Immenso Jeovha"

(Scritti nel marzo 1842)

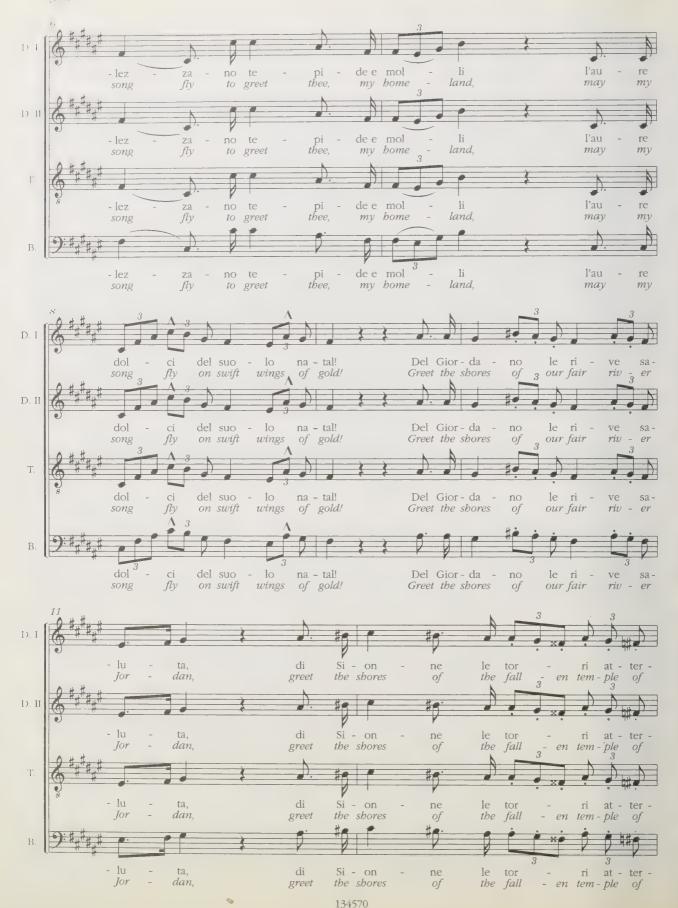
Autograph Choral Arrangents of "Va pensiero" and "Immenso Jeovha"

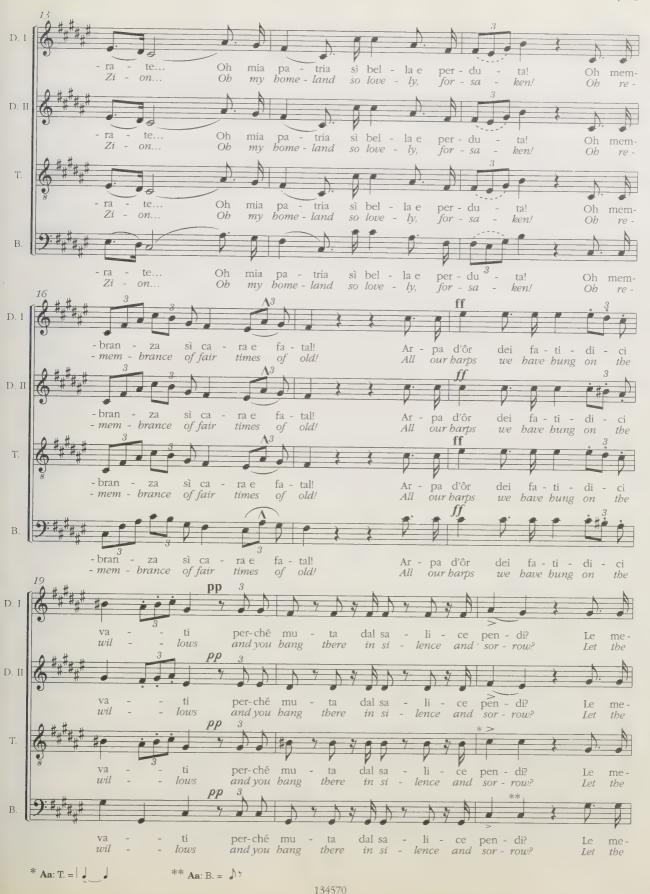
(Written in March 1842)

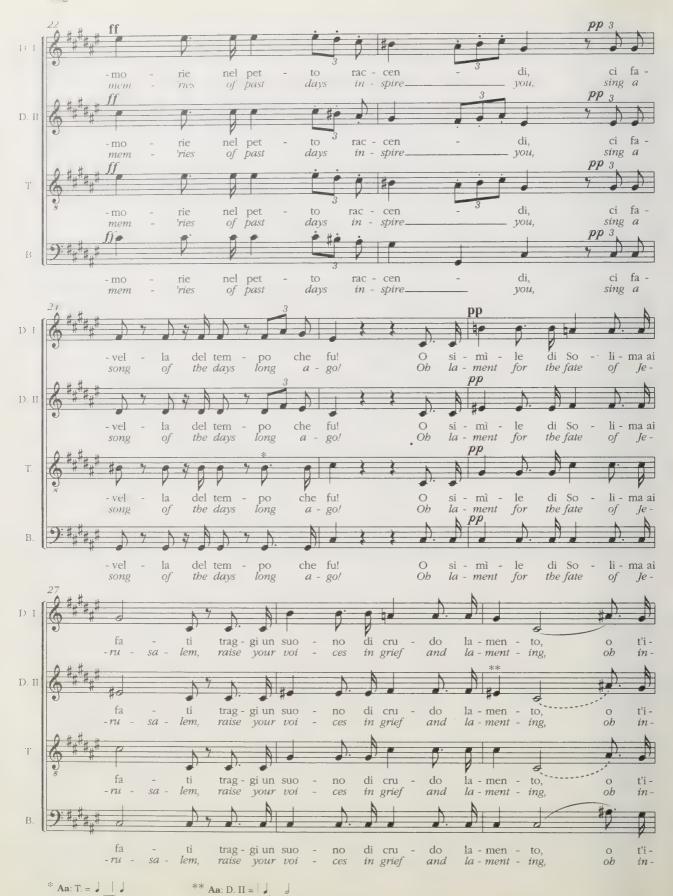
A. Arrangiamento corale autografo di "Va pensiero" Autograph choral arrangement of "Va pensiero"

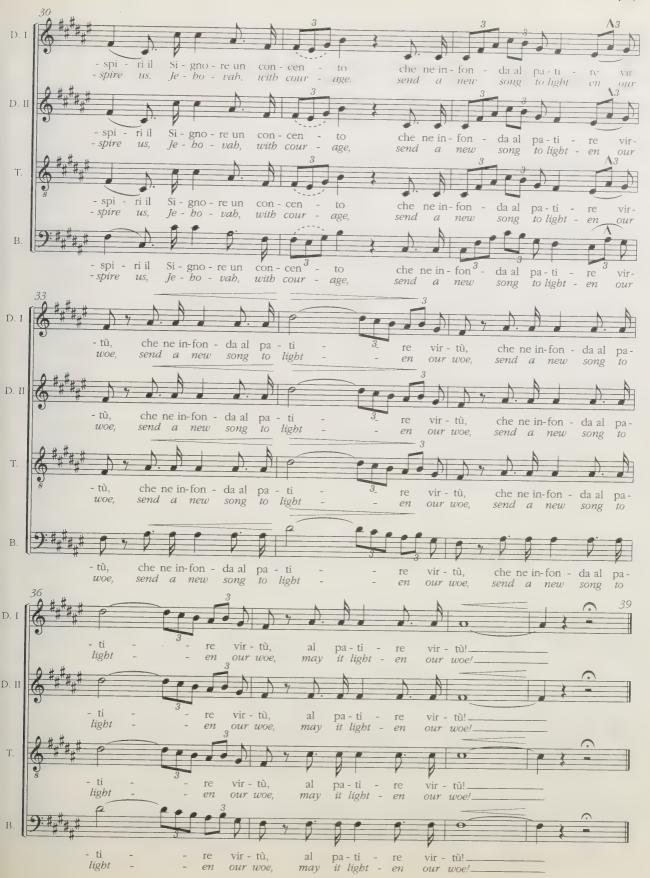








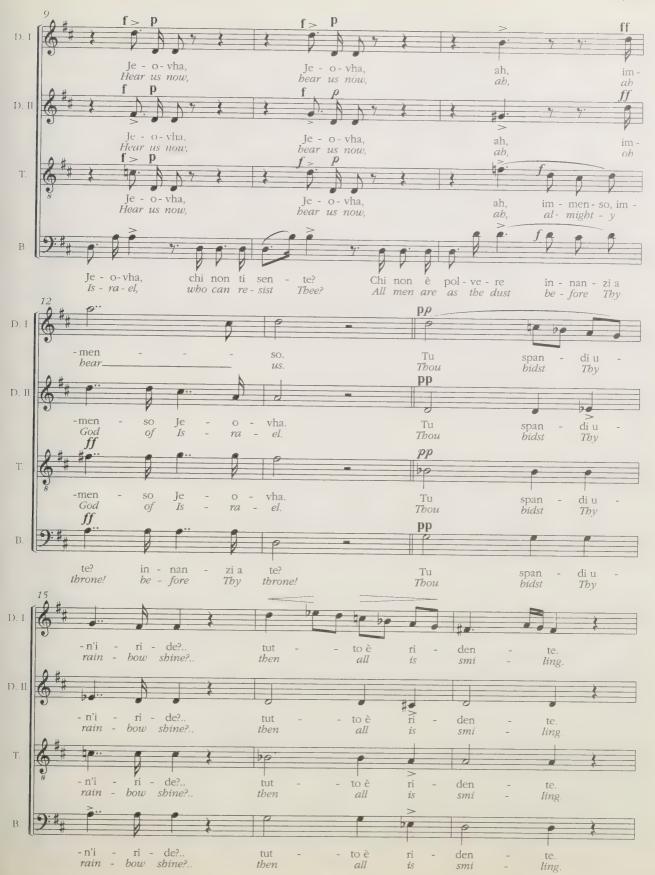


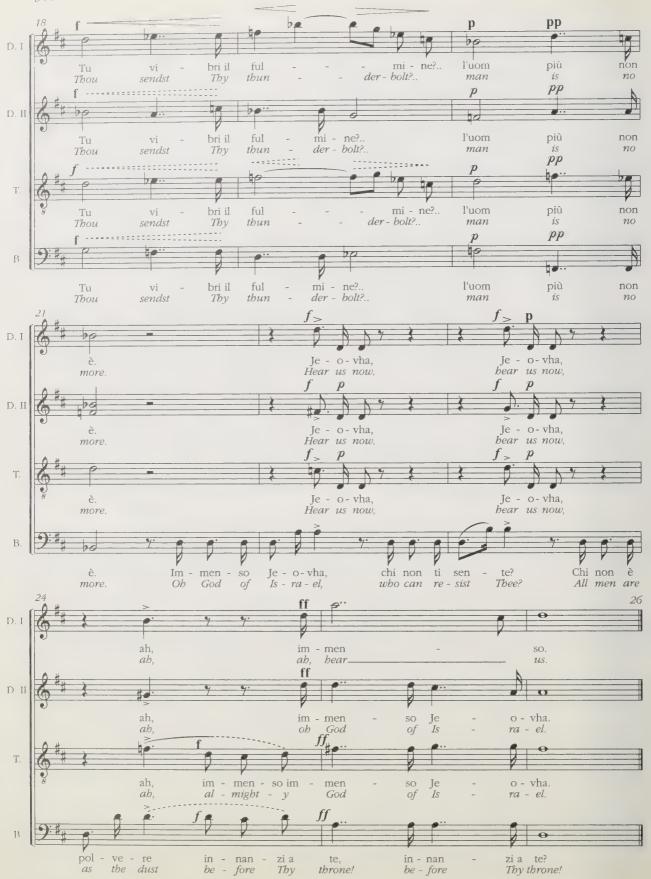


B. Arrangiamento corale autografo di "Immenso Jeovha" *Autograph choral arrangement of "Immenso Jeovha"*









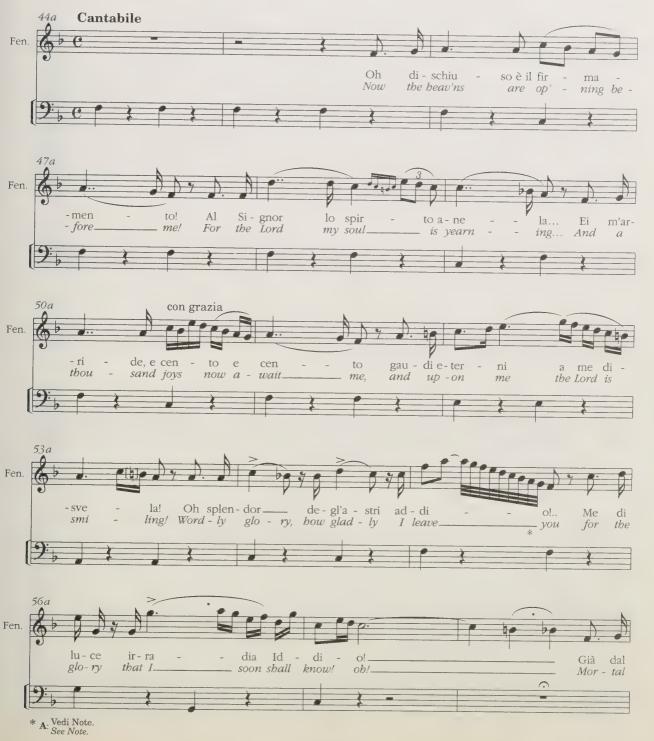
N. 13a. Preghiera Fenena puntata per la Zecchini

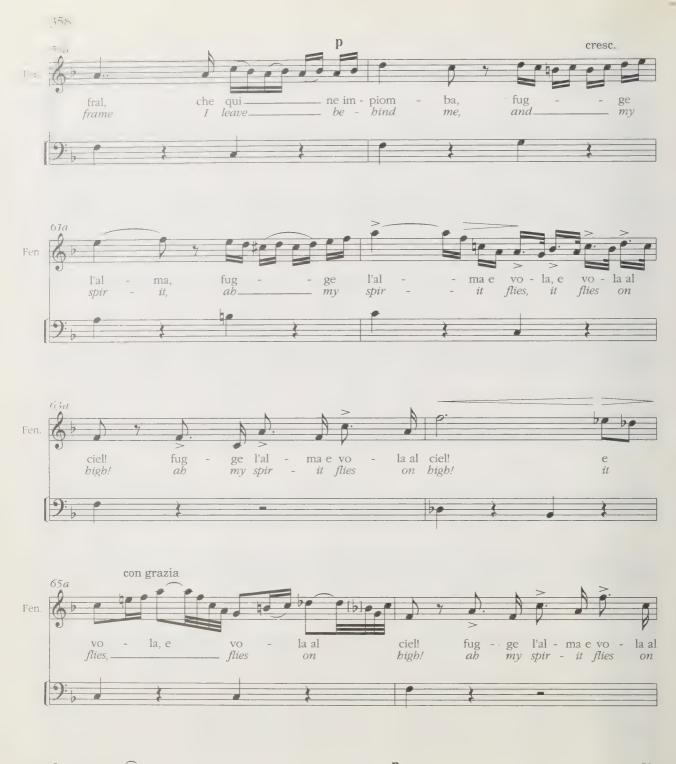
Aggiunta per le rappresentazioni al Teatro alla Scala, Autunno 1842

Appendix 4

N. 13a. Fenena's Prayer puntata for Zecchini

Added for the performances at the Teatro alla Scala, Autumn 1842







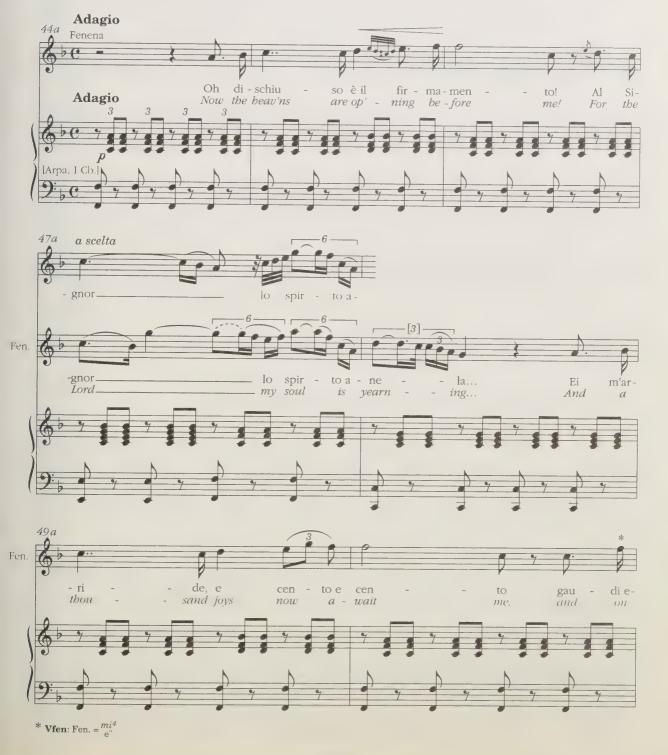
N. 13b. Romanza Fenena

Aggiunta per le rappresentazioni al Teatro La Fenice, Carnevale 1842-1843

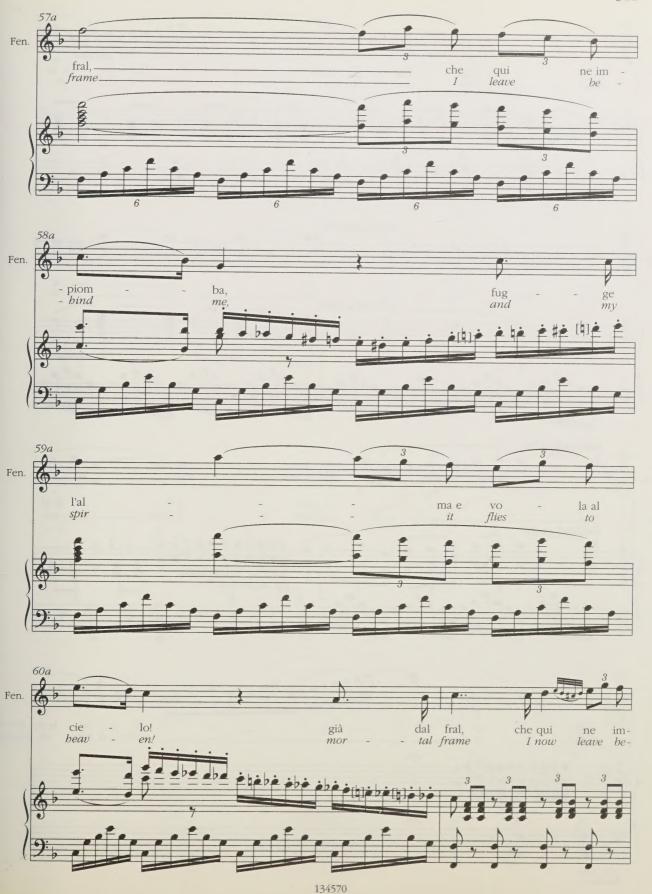
Appendix 5

N. 13b. Romanza Fenena

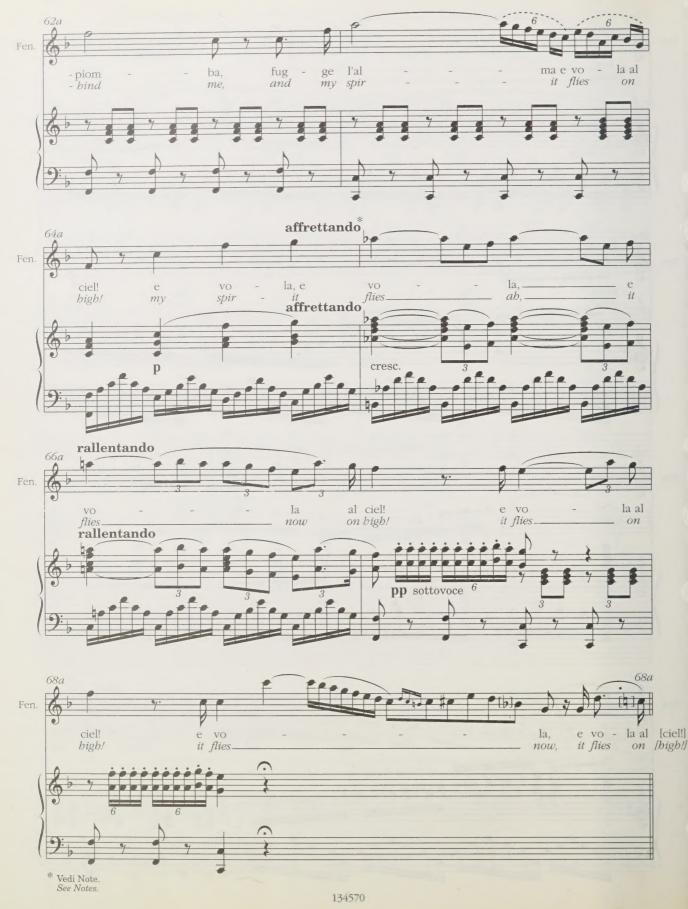
Added for the performances at the Teatro La Fenice, Carnival 1842-43













KQ-752-673

ISMN M-041-37269-3

9 790041 372693

ISBN 88-7592-016-8

134570/07

uu